

EUROPEAN NEWS

Bucharest liberation row fuels dispute in Warsaw Pact

BY LESLIE COLITT IN BERLIN

WARSAW PACT countries closely tied to the Soviet Union are engaged in a running Press battle with independent-minded Romania over who liberated the Romanian capital, Bucharest, from the Nazis 35 years ago (the month).

This seemingly obscure dispute has taken on a new meaning now that Romania, under President Nicolae Ceausescu, is involved in a serious confrontation with the other six Warsaw Pact countries.

At issue is the question of whether Bucharest was liberated by the Red Army or by the Romanian Communist Party and units of the Romanian Army.

As is often the case, East Germany speaks for the Soviet Union in such a debate. Yesterday's issue of the East German Communist newspaper Neues Deutschland reminds its readers of the latest instalment of a Russian documentary film on the war being shown on East German television. It deals with how the Soviet Army brought freedom to South Eastern Europe.

The newspaper says that after the Romanian uprising started in Bucharest on August 23, 1944, "Soviet troops moved into the capital." The film, it notes, shows the "heroic actions of the Soviet soldiers in the city of Bucharest."

But Romania is not letting



President Nicolae Ceausescu

the matter rest there. A leading political publication is running a series of articles on what took place in 1944. The Soviet Union's contribution to driving the Germans out of Romania is given only brief mention.

German military and civilian technical advisers entered Romania in June 1940, after General Ion Antonescu took over dictatorial powers and restored King Michael I to the throne. The country remained virtually occupied by the Nazis until the liberation.

A general who commanded a Romanian Army cavalry unit says the cavalry saved Bucharest from being re-invaded by surrounding German troops.

Irish sea oil find 'not commercial'

By Stewart Dalby, Dublin Correspondent

CHEVRON OIL has found traces of hydrocarbons in test drilling of one of its wells off western Ireland. But it is understood that the results do not indicate commercial possibilities. A statement from the company is expected.

Chevron, whose partners are ICI and Bula Oil, a privately-owned Irish company, has been drilling the well, 150 miles west of Shannon, since May 15.

The well, which is Chevron's first in the area, is in Block 35/11 in the Porcupine Trough and is about 70 miles south-west of Block 35/8. That is where Phillips made a small strike last October. Its well tested at 730 barrels a day. Although deemed non-commercial by Phillips, it was the first encouraging oil strike in a 20-year search.

Interest will now centre on the remaining tests due this year, particularly on those in the Porcupine area. Four wells are probable, two are definite. BP is drilling on Block 26/28, about 180 miles west of Galway. Gulf Oil is getting ready for a test drill in the autumn on Block 26/21 about 190 miles west of Galway.

Elsewhere, Amoco is drilling about 40 miles north-west of Donegal on Block 12/13. Marathon is drilling some 50 miles south of Yougal on Block 49/17 off south-east Ireland. Ireland imports 80 per cent of its energy at present. It has little coal, little peat, and apart from a small offshore gas field, almost no other indigenous source of energy.

Cossiga spells out the priorities for Italy

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

ENERGY problems, measures to halt inflation and preserve the competitiveness of industry, and law and order are to be the priorities of the new Italian Government.

But opening the confidence debate in Parliament on his administration yesterday, Sig. Francesco Cossiga, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, acknowledged the "political limits" of his Government.

His administration, ending the country's longest government crisis in 30 years, aims principally to provide a working government at least until the bitter divisions between and within the political parties are healed and a more stable solution is found.

The confidence vote this weekend is expected to be a formality. The Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats, all directly represented in the government, will

vote in favour. The Socialists, who hold the parliamentary balance, say they will abstain. Sig. Cossiga has not presented a Government programme in the traditional sense, but rather a broad declaration of intentions.

He said the Government would seek to strengthen and reform the police and security forces to combat terrorism more effectively.

On economic matters, Sig. Cossiga intended to continue the broad lines of the three-year recovery programme drawn up last year by Sig. Filippo Maria Pandolfi, the Treasury Minister. This is designed to lay the basis for stable growth and to tackle fundamental distortions in the economy.

However, he would wait until the end of this year before presenting the revised medium-term programme since the original had to be updated in

the light of economic developments.

The Prime Minister appealed for the collaboration of the unions to improve productivity and curb increasing labour costs.

He proposed to isolate the sharp rise in energy and raw materials costs from Italy's cost-of-living index. In return, the Government would make some cuts in direct taxation. But in view of the voracious demands of public spending, it would be necessary to increase fiscal revenue, in particular by measures to halt tax evasion.

Later this year, the Government would organise a conference on nuclear energy, but he warned that unless a nuclear programme was launched soon the country would face enormous difficulties.

● Sig. Cossiga (right) and his newly formed Cabinet



Dutch unions to co-ordinate wage demands

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE LARGEST union federation in the Netherlands hopes to draw up a uniform programme of demands in time for the 1980 wage round which starts in November.

Failure to adopt a common approach earlier this year meant individual unions were unable to achieve their aim of a shorter working week. This led to recriminations within the federation.

It hopes that closer consultation with its members will facilitate

agreement on a joint programme, and wants to speed up wage negotiations. Some sectors have still not settled a contract for this year.

The Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging, representing 1.1m members from Socialist and Catholic industry-based unions, intends, along with its co-ordinated action strategy, to make a 10 per cent reduction in working hours over the next four years its main target in the next wage round, said Mr. Wim

Spit, the vice-chairman.

Production levels in Dutch industry recovered during the second quarter of this year after declining in the preceding three months due to the severe winter.

The seasonally adjusted index for the manufacturing, minerals and gas industries rose to a provisional level of 131.1 (1970=100) from 129 in the first quarter.

More normal levels of activity were restored in the minerals

industry and the public utilities—particularly high in the first quarter—and in the building industry, which had been very low. Production in the metals and foodstuffs sectors was depressed, although oil and chemicals were much more active.

The bad winter also caused a sharp drop in investment in the first quarter. Gross investments in fixed assets fell 27.5 per cent compared with the first quarter of last year.

Profits fall in third of Spain's big companies

By Robert Graham in Madrid

ONE-THIRD of the major Spanish companies saw their profits fall last year, according to a study just prepared by the Review Economico de la Produccion. Of 180 companies and banks analysed 66 had lower profits or sustained losses.

There were, according to the study, 23 loss-making concerns—primarily operating in steel, cars and trucks, large-scale retailing and paper. The average return on capital was 6 per cent, only just over a third of the rate of inflation. In no sector analysed did the return on capital keep pace with last year's 16-17 per cent inflation.

The most profitable sectors were cement, banking and foodstuffs. Spain is the world's largest exporter of cement and last year showed a 49 per cent increase in export earnings to \$350m. Here the return on capital was 14.6 per cent and the industry continues to be one of the few to attract domestic investment.

The other profitable sector was banking, with a 13.6 per cent return on capital. Despite difficulties in some of the small and industrial banks this sector remains one of the most privileged in the country.

About half the total profits in the 180 concerns studied came from 48 banks. Many of the 48 banks were frequently significant shareholders in, and suppliers of credit to troubled sectors such as steel, shipbuilding and the paper industry.

In contrast, companies operating in the insurance sector, poorly developed in Spain and hamstrung by antiquated regulations, saw a return on capital of only 2 per cent.

A particular feature of the Spanish economy is the importance of the 13 mainly privately owned utility companies. They account for just under 40 per cent of total profits in the survey sample.

The principal private shareholders in these utilities are banks, and the 48 banks and these utilities accounted for 87 per cent of gross profit in the group studied. The position of the utilities has been left virtually untouched in the recently approved National Energy Plan, despite pressure from the parliamentary Opposition.

The decline in profitability has resulted from a combination of the increased cost of credit, drop in domestic demand, higher wages and the need to set aside greater provisions for reserves. The companies doing best in the current recession have been those able to turn more to exports, or alternatively those with protected positions such as the banks.

Because of the continued recession and the failure of the Government and the financial community to press ahead with plans for restructuring the credit system, company results in 1979 are expected to be worse, with more loss makers and an overall downward trend in profitability.

Bonn and oil concerns at odds over profit figures

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WEST GERMAN oil companies, anxious to justify their latest petrol price rises, are at odds with the Government over how they should present their profit figures.

The oil majors have come in for considerable criticism from government bodies, trade unions and consumer associations. The Federal Cartel Office has also held talks with the companies about last month's price rise—which pushed petrol well above the DM 1 per litre level—and expressed scepticism that it was fully justified.

In a bid to stave off some of this criticism, the oil companies have been publishing regular and detailed figures on their own account. But they have also urged the Economics Ministry to release a quarterly review of the crude oil import prices faced by the companies as well as the turnover and profits.

This, they believe, would give more credibility to their claim, demonstrated again yesterday in Deutsche Shell's first half results, that they are making less than one pfennig (100 pfennigs=1DM) profit on a litre of petrol.

Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, is now reported, however, to have resisted issuing regular government figures on the profits of the oil companies, no matter how reassuring this might be for the consumer. The danger is that the Government might become too closely identified with the companies and that the figures would be seen as a seal of approval on their profits.

The oil companies are dissatisfied with this. They have pointed out that some of the social consequences of the price rises—the pressure, for example, from grassroots union members for an "oil" supplement on their wages—could be avoided, if the Government helped explain the reasons for the rises.

Athens police break up union march

By N. J. Michaelson and David Tonge in Athens

HUNDREDS OF haton-wielding policemen last night broke up attempts by unionists to march on Athens University. The union rally had earlier been banned by the authorities.

The ban is the second to be imposed recently and comes after the Government broke a strike of bank clerks by subjecting some of them to military regulations.

The unions planning yesterday's rally represent workers in the banks and public utilities. They were supported by university students and by Mr. Andreas Papanastasiou, head of the opposition Socialist Party. He described the ban as anti-constitutional.

The unions are objecting to, and in some cases refusing to obey, a Government order that working hours should be staggered. The order was designed to reduce traffic congestion and was introduced with little consultation.

The unions are also protesting against wage increases being limited to between 10 and 15 per cent.

Portuguese alliance threatened

By Jimmy Burns in Lisbon

PORTUGAL'S recently formed centre-right alliance could fall apart because of differences over electoral strategy.

Dr. Francisco Sa Carneiro, Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, and Dr. Goncalo Ribeiro Telles of the Social Democrat Party, the Christian Democrat Party, and the Popular Monarchist Party have announced an "emergency summit" for today in an attempt to prevent a final split.

The Christian Democrats and the Monarchists, minority parties within the alliance, have attacked the decision of local Social Democrat campaign officials to fight the autumn election with separate lists. Both the Christian Democrats and the Monarchists argue that the credibility of the alliance will be severely damaged unless a common strategy is agreed.

The alliance was formed last month around a broad set of principles which left the coalition strategy unresolved. The three leaders agreed to bury past rivalries and offer the country a "radical alternative".

Giscard rounds on alcoholism

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

"THE MOST important and the most preoccupying of society's scourges," said the French Cabinet last night to say this week about alcohol.

When the French Cabinet had to say this week about alcohol would be music to Ayatollah Khomeini's ears—that is, if the Ayatollah did not hold similar views about music.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has requested a 10-year programme to combat alcoholism, to be drawn up by next summer.

In a country whose inhabitants can claim to absorb more pure alcohol per head than anybody else, plans to attack the problem are not new. But nothing has materialised in the two years since M. Giscard first broached the issue.

At this week's Cahine meeting he heard M. Jacques Barrot, his new cost-cutting Minister of Health and Social Security, report on the persistence of

alcoholism among Frenchmen, and increasingly among French women, and its "human, social and economic cost."

A working party is being set up under Professor Jean Bernard, a venerable Paris blood specialist and member of the French Academy.

In the meantime, the authorities plan simply to do more of what they are doing already: treating alcoholics, breathalysing motorists, mounting anti-excess campaigns and restricting advertising by drinks companies.

The French are reckoned to lead the world consumption table with an intake in 1975 of 16 litres of pure alcohol per man, woman and child. Apart from the Italians, there are, of course, no wine drinkers like them.

At least 4m people are reckoned to be "excessive drinkers," and 2m are confirmed alcoholics out of a total population of almost 53m. The effects of alcohol are the third cause of death in France, after heart diseases and cancer.

But the importance of wines and spirits in the rural economy makes the question of control a delicate one.

Wine-growers, concerned about the prospect of excess production this year, when the harvest is expected to be nearly 20 per cent higher than last year's, at 70m hectolitres, are spared this additional worry until Prof. Bernard's team comes up with its package of measures in mid-1980.

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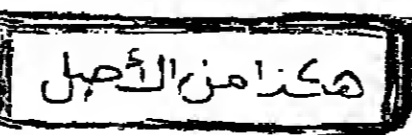


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In 1978 Bayer further expanded its position in world markets. The foreign affiliates were particularly successful. Turnover Bayer World: DM 22,836 million. Share of foreign production and export: 70%. Turnover Bayer AG: 9,972 million. Export: 59.2%. Bayer World investment in fixed assets: DM 1,727 million, of which DM 1,113 million in Germany. Research expenditure worldwide: DM 1 billion, i.e. roughly 5% of turnover. Post-tax profits: Bayer World DM 467 million, Bayer AG DM 306 million. Dividend 1978: DM 6.- per share of DM 50 nominal - a total payout of DM 256 million to some 420,000 shareholders. In the first five months of 1979 turnover of Bayer AG rose by 14%, the development of Bayer World during the same period continued favourably with a 13% rise in turnover.

For further information on the Bayer Group please contact Bayer AG, Vorstandsstab Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, D-5090 Leverkusen, West Germany, or Bayer U.K. Ltd., PR Department, Bayer House, 18-24 Paradise Road, Richmond/Surrey TW9 1SJ, Great Britain.

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AMERICAN NEWS

صكنا من الأرحل

BY KEVIN DONE

Mobile missile basing plan put to Carter

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Defence Department is reported to have put to President Carter its recommendation that the planned \$300m MX Mobile Missile system should be ferried around by launchers on sites in the states of Utah and Nevada. President Carter is expected shortly to announce a final decision on the basing of the MX system, in good time to influence the Senate debate on the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union. The expensive MX system, which is designed to make American land-based missiles less vulnerable to Soviet attack, is the one new system that the U.S. can build under the treaty. Mr. Carter has already announced his intention to build the mobile MX missiles. But firm decision on how it is to be based may be necessary to sway some senators, disturbed by what they saw as the President's earlier preparations on defence projects, such as the cancellation of the B-1 bomber and postponement of the neutron bomb. The recommendation of Mr. Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, and his department is that the 10-warhead MX missiles should be circulated around "trajectories" between hard sites. The Russians would thus find it difficult or impossible to target the missiles precisely. The Department considered other options to achieve the same end.

Concern over growth in heating oil stocks

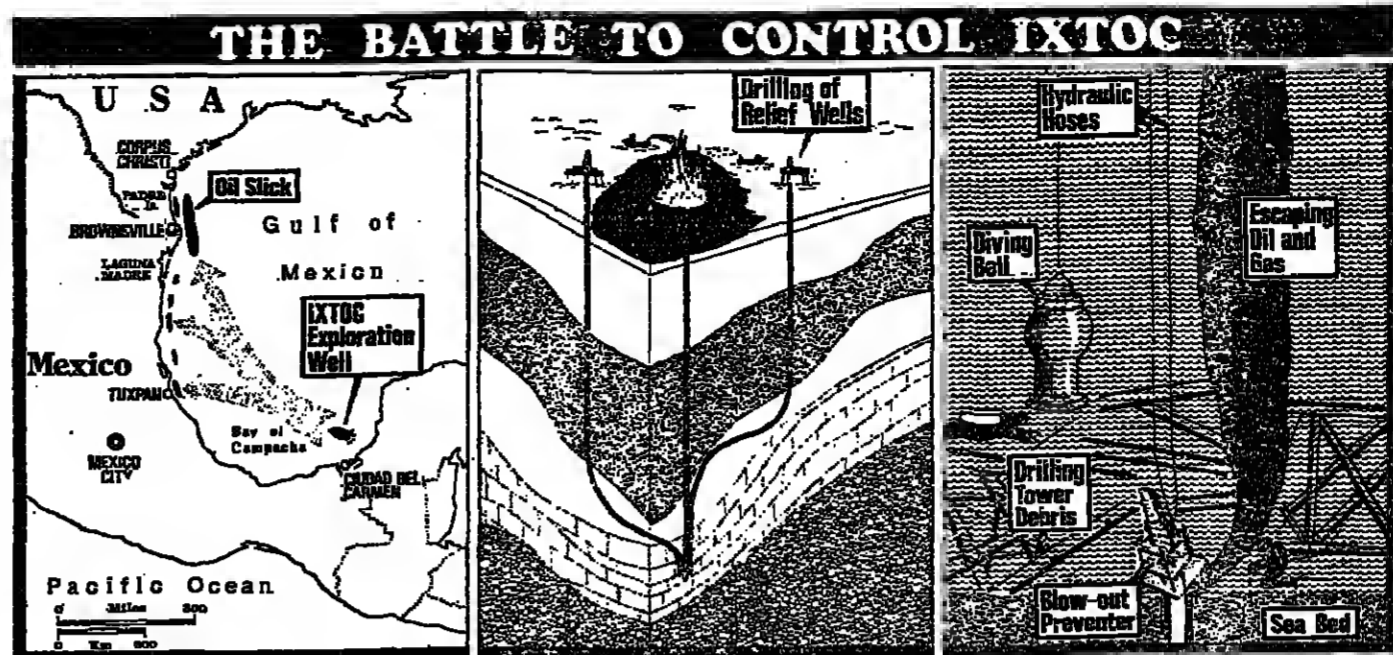
BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

CONCERN is growing in Washington and in the petroleum industry about slow growth in stocks of distillates (the broad petroleum category which includes heating oil). The Administration has set a target of 240m barrels by October. However, according to the latest statistics released by the American Petroleum Institute for the week ending August 3, stocks stood at 186.9m, compared with 180.5m at the same time last year. Moreover, these stocks should be increasing at a rate of 7m barrels a week to achieve the target. In the week of the latest report, there was an increase of only 2m barrels. A House Subcommittee reported on Wednesday that many distributors around the country are behind on deliveries to households because of delays in supplies from the refiners. It concluded that the 240m target may not be reached. A clearer idea of the state of heating oil supplies should emerge today when the Federal Oil Jobbers Council releases the results of the first survey undertaken of stocks in the hands of local distributors and household storage tanks. It will also draw comparisons with stocks this time last year.

ENERGY REVIEW: THE IXTOC OIL DISASTER

Mexican blow-out on an epic scale

FOR MORE than two months a volatile mixture of crude oil and gas has been billowing to the surface of Mexico's Gulf of Campeche from the broken Ixtoc 1 well-head, 170 feet below on the seabed. The accident is fast becoming one of the world's biggest ever oil disasters, surpassing even the sinking of the Amoco Cadiz tanker in the English Channel last year. The immediate effects of the blow-out are not as obvious as the tanker disaster, partly because the accident occurred about 58 miles from the nearest coast and partly because a significant proportion of the oil and gas is burning into the atmosphere as it reaches the surface of the sea. But crude oil is still gushing from the well at a rate of some 20,000 barrels or 700,000 gallons a day. Some of the oil is being retrieved from the sea near the scene of the blow-out, but inevitably much is still escaping and patches of the vast broken slicks which now cover hundreds of square miles, have been blown more than 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico, finally reaching the Gulf of California and the Gulf of Mexico.



try to corral the oil and scoop it from the surface, much of the crude that is not burning or evaporating is still escaping to threaten marine life and far-away coastlines. A fleet of aircraft is being used to bomb the oil slicks with chemical dispersants, but there are fears that the chemicals may be as harmful to sea life as the oil itself. And unless present forlorn attempts to seal the well from the top meet with unexpected success, it could be October before relief wells are drilled down to the Ixtoc formation to start sealing the well from the bottom.

Fresh doubts

Within Mexico itself the Campeche blow-out is giving rise to fresh doubts about the pace at which the whole oil industry is being developed and it is throwing a particular cloud over the future of Pemex's charismatic director-general, Sr Jorge Diaz Serrano, who has been talked of as a future presidential candidate. Work on Ixtoc 1 was started on December 10 last year with the drilling contracted out to Permargo (Perforaciones Mar del Golfo) a Mexican company of which Sr. Diaz Serrano himself was one of the founder members. He claimed recently that he sold all his shares in the company and severed any connections with it in October, 1975. In its turn Permargo contracted in the U.S. semi-submersible drilling rig, Sedco 135.

By June 2, after nearly six months' drilling, when the well was already 2 1/2 miles (3,627 metres) deep, the work ran into trouble. During the day as the drill-bit bored down through the rock workers on the rig noticed significant loss of pressure in the drilling mud that was being pumped down the well.

While drilling is in progress a special kind of "mud" usually made of clay and water with the addition of various chemicals, is pumped down through the hollow drill pipe, coming out at the bottom through holes in the drilling bit. A powerful stream of mud is returned to the surface through the space between the drill pipe and wall of the borehole.

The mud keeps the drill bit cool, it brings up rock samples to the surface for study by geologists and it may give the first indications of an imminent oil or gas find. Most important it is also used to balance the pressures from the rock formations that are being drilled through.

According to a report recently released by the Mexican Attorney General's office mud pressure was lost at Ixtoc three times on June 2 and on each occasion work was suspended for a few hours. Drilling engineers on the rig were clearly perplexed by the loss of pressure. They decided to withdraw the 11,899 feet of drill pipe, in order to change the drilling bit and they prepared more than 100 cubic yards of mud to pump into the well to hold it stable. For 6 1/2 hours the

well was closely watched and there was no sign of movement. By 3 a.m. in the still dark hours of the early morning of June 3 only the last 630 ft of the drill pipe remained in the hole when disaster struck. Suddenly without warning the mud began to be forced back up the well. The first trickle quickly built up into a jet of mud, oil and gas. In less than 15 minutes the volatile mixture had exploded and was on fire turning the rig into a burning torii.

Misfortune

In this short space of time the drilling company suffered one major piece of misfortune according to the Attorney General's investigation. The drillers tried to activate the blow-out preventer (BOP) located down at the well-head on the sea floor. Within the BOP there are metal rams that can be operated hydraulically from the surface. They should be able to smash through the drill pipe and shut off the well automatically.

But the drill-pipe had been almost completely withdrawn from the hole. Remaining between the rams was the far thicker and stronger steel drill collar, which the rams were unable to smash. The well went out of control.

The 63-man crew rapidly abandoned the rig as the fire began to melt the drilling tower. The metal superstructure collapsed in the intense heat and plunged to the seabed. Much of it fell across the well-

head on the sea-floor causing serious damage by bending the well-head.

During the first 24 hours after the blow-out the remains of the drilling rig were towed clear of the site. Since then Pemex has been following two distinct courses of action to try to stem the flow of burning oil and gas.

Underwater inspection, first by remote-controlled television cameras and later by a manned mini-submarine and by divers showed that the well-head blow-out preventer was not a complete write-off. It could still be used perhaps to try to shut off the well. Despite swirling underwater currents divers succeeded in attaching hydraulic hoses to the well-head and on June 24, the rams were closed.

Mud and gelatin were pumped into the top of the well, the flow was cut off and the fire burning on the surface of the sea was extinguished. But as cement began to be pumped into the well-head, a second surge of oil and gas gushed out of the well from a rupture below the blow-out preventer. On the surface of the sea the jet of oil and gas was deliberately set on fire again to try to cut down the pollution.

Since early July Pemex has continued to try to seal the well from the top through hoses attached to the well head, but the attempt appears forlorn. It is injecting whatever solid material it can force into the top of the well ranging from golf balls to small 2-3 inch steel

balls, but much of the material is being ejected with the oil.

The main hope of controlling Ixtoc was in the drilling of two relief wells to the same depth as the existing well. Mud and cement can then be pumped down to the hope that this will be sucked up into the Ixtoc well where it will seal and seal off the flow of oil and gas. But that is a long process. The first relief well was begun on June 11 and is unlikely to be completed before the second half of September. The second was started on July 1 and will not be finished before the beginning of October.

Pollution

For seven weeks from June 3 Pemex estimates that oil was gushing from Ixtoc at the rate of 30,000 barrels or more than 1m gallons a day along with 15m cubic feet a day of gas. Since July 23 the flow has been restricted a little to 20,000 barrels a day. Of this Pemex claims that about 10,000 b/d are being burned, 5,000 b/d are evaporating, about 1,000 b/d are being recovered and the rest is spreading out in a widening stain over the Gulf.

The real impact on the ecology of the Gulf will not be known for many months, but the visible pollution already covers many hundreds of square miles with the oil fetching up in small tar balls as far away as the beaches of South Texas.

The official verdict of the Mexican Attorney General has cleared all the individuals working on the Sedco 135 rig of blame for the blow-out. The accident was caused, says the report, by a "natural phenomenon" that could not have been foreseen. The original loss of mud pressure was caused by the drill-bit entering an underground cavern. The force of the drill-bit plunging through this hollow broke the seal of the oil reservoir and set off the surge of crude and gas to the surface.

The silver lining to the blow-out is that the Ixtoc well has discovered a major new oil field—reserves of at least 800m barrels have been talked of—and the crude is much lighter and more attractive than most of the earlier offshore finds. Ixtoc will certainly play a part in raising again Mexico's total of proven reserves. But that is little consolation for those living around the Gulf who make their living from mesos other than oil as they watch the mounting pollution spill out across the Gulf of Mexico.

Roldos takes over in Ecuador

BY SARITA KENDALL IN QUITO

MR. CYRUS VANCE, U.S. Secretary of State, will discuss the situation in Central America with leaders of Latin American states, including Mrs. Violeta Barrios Chamorro of the Nicaraguan junta, during his visit to Ecuador. More than 30 countries have sent representatives to today's inauguration of President Jaime Roldos Aguilera, which marks Ecuador's return to democracy after nine years, and to civilian rule after seven. Among the heads of state in Quito are President Julio Cesar Turbay of Colombia, and President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela, as well as the foreign ministers of Peru, Argentina and Chile.

As Sr. Roldos takes over, the new constitution chosen by referendum last year comes into force and Congress begins its first session in nine years. Sr. Roldos' Popular Forces Party has the most seats, with more than a third of the total. Sr. Assad Bucaram, the party leader, hazed from running for the presidency by legal technicality, is expected to be elected leader of congress as the result of a much criticised pact with the Conservative Party. Though there has been no overt split in the Popular Forces, relations between "Roldosistas" and "Bucaramistas" are known to be tense and could affect the future government's effectiveness.



President Jaime Roldos Aguilera... leads Ecuador back to democracy today after nine years

DC-10 short-cut defended

CHICAGO — Aircraft manufacturer McDonnell Douglas never explicitly disapproved of a short-cut maintenance procedure blamed for the crash of an American Airlines DC-10, one of the airline's engineers told an inquiry yesterday.

The DC-10 crashed last May at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, killing 273 people, when an engine tore loose as it took off. Investigators believed that the left engine ripped off because the pylon attaching it to the wing had been accidentally cracked by American Airlines mechanics during maintenance two months before the crash. The mechanics used a fork-lift truck to detach the engine and pylon from the wing together, and not separately as recommended in the McDonnell

Douglas service manual. Mr. William Fey, the American Airlines engineer who developed the one-step fork lift procedure, said that he consulted McDonnell Douglas in advance and "got the feeling they did not approve." But he added later that McDonnell

Douglas "did not advise me they did not approve." Mr. Fey said that one McDonnell Douglas official had even indicated that the fork lift method might be adopted by the DC-10 builder if it proved workable. Reuter

Brazil halts travel deposit

BRASILIA — An \$824 compulsory deposit with the central bank required of all Brazilians travelling abroad will be lifted on January 1, 1980. The measure, first applied in July 1976, was aimed at reducing Brazilian spending overseas and raising money for tourist development, the Govern-

ment said. The announcement came a day after an official visit by Sr. Adolf Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, who complained that the travel deposit prevented Spanish immigrants in Brazil from visiting their families at home. AP-DJ

Muhammed Hamaludin reports on Guyana's resurgent Left-wing opposition. A new force of militants and intellectuals

THE MILITANT Working People's Alliance (WPA) has declared itself Guyana's newest left-wing political party, and immediately pledged to have a showdown with the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) before the end of the year. The circumstances could not be more opportune, from the viewpoint of the five-year-old WPA. It is caught up in a verbal war with the Congress following the fire-bombing on July 11 of two big Government buildings—one housing the PNC's secretariat—and the fatal stabbing three days later of a Jesuit priest in street violence. Insults have been exchanged as the two organisations take to the street corners in the cities and in towns on the bauxite belt, where both claim strong support. The Alliance dubs the ruling party "an illegal minority clique" and is in turn described by the Congress as "counter-revolutionaries" and mercenaries of foreign interests who have "launched a counter-revolution" in Guyana. The political unrest has coincided with a period of severe economic difficulty: recovery measures coupled to two International Monetary Fund loans, have been bitterly criticised by the Alliance and other Left-wing groups; although they have clearly arrested the downturn which began in 1976. The Alliance has been hammering away at these issues, as well as the standing

allegation by all opposition parties that the PNC is guilty of electoral irregularities and undemocratic practices. The Alliance has been drawing crowds estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000, an encouraging size. But the Alliance has done painstaking work over the past five years as one of the severest critics of the Government. It was formed by the alliance of four small fringe groups, but it has cut loose from all of them and boasts individual identity and a collective leadership. The first two groups, led by Mr. Eusi Kwayana (formerly Sydney King) and Mr. Moses Bogaevan respectively, brought to the coalition the experiences of seasoned politicians, as did the WPPV led by Mr. Brindley Benn. The Ratoon Group lent intellectual support in the form of young university radicals. Mr. Kwayana has been involved in Guyanese politics for over 25 years. From with the older People's Progressive Party (PPP), now headed by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the Opposition leader and former premier, and then, after the split in the PPP in 1955, with Mr. Forbes Burnham, the Prime Minister, and from which he subsequently broke away. Mr. Bhagwan, a lawyer, was a close aide of Dr. Jagan's but quit the PPP to form his own organisation. Mr. Benn, a deputy Premier in Dr. Jagan's Government, split from him on ideo-

logical issues and formed his Maoist WPPV. The Alliance, however, owes much to the presence of the Ratoon Intellectuals, who have built up a reputation for Left-wing militancy along the lines of several similar groups in other parts of the Caribbean—Grenada's New Jewel Movement, for example. The Ratoon leader is Guyana's foremost Marxist economist, Professor Clive Thomas. Another leading figure is an historian, Dr. Walter Rodney, who has been denied the history chair at the local university. Another is Dr. Joshua Ramassamy, a university lecturer who was the target of a daylight assassination attempt by still unidentified gunmen some years ago. The Alliance has the appearance of a genuine bridge across the racial barrier in Guyana, and a firm link with the country's intelligentsia. In a round-up of suspects after the July 11 fire-bombing incidents, a number of WPA militants were held in custody for up to 72 hours, and this brought a sharp reaction from the respected academic board of the university, which said that the rights of academics had been trampled on for years, and this was only the latest "violation."

The missing link in the Alliance is a labour base, but some observers suspect that it has been attempting to build this among university, commer-



Dr. Forbes Burnham... faces new opposition

cial, industrial and sugar workers. There is little doubt that its strategy is to force the Government's resignation by mobilising the urban masses, as happened, for example, in Grenada and Dominica. It has announced that plans are being drawn up by a broad-based opposition grouping, of which it is a leading part, for a "civil resistance and civil disobedience" campaign along the lines of Kwame Nkrumah's "positive action" programme. The ruling party has naturally responded by sharply denouncing the Alliance and its objectives. This attack is sustained in the pro-Government media and in street corner meetings. However it is not yet clear what the Government will do to counter what most Guyanese see as a direct challenge to the Administration's authority. The Government believes that the revolution started by the ruling PNC is at stake and must be defended from the mob. The media have carried broad hints that preventive detention, under the National Security Act, is being considered. But there has been no official statement. The Government and PNC party position has so far been tied to warnings that the authorities would not allow a return to the communal violence of earlier years. It is also unknown how the Marxist PPP would respond to any genuine attempt to topple the Government.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION In the Holders of Esso Overseas Finance N.V. 9% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of September 15, 1970 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$1,500,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on September 15, 1979 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows: Outstanding Debentures of \$1000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits: 01 05 12 17 24 37 47 55 63 71 77 79 83 85 Also outstanding Debentures of prefix "M" bearing the following numbers: 5 1170 3070 4270 5670 6770 7770 8970 11370 12570 14370 15170 16670 17470 18170 2070 3270 4670 6170 6970 7970 8970 11770 13170 14670 15370 17170 18170 670 2470 3870 5370 6770 7270 8270 10170 12270 14170 14970 16270 17470 Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due September 15, 1980 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York, New York 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London, Paris and Zurich; Banca Vovviller & C. S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Bank Mees & Hope N.V. in Amsterdam; and Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgise in Luxembourg. Coupons due September 15, 1979 should be detached and collected in the usual manner. On and after September 15, 1979 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption. ESSO OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V. Dated: August 10, 1979 The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment: 70 1915 2745 4491 5411 6244 6461 6589 6604 7921 11650 13486 17568 18426 18632 19458 101 2129 4262 4584 5513 6234 6474 6973 6985 7625 11862 13747 17581 18449 18634 19502 883 2254 4839 4839 5528 6275 6917 6978 8406 8823 9282 12712 17581 18449 18634 19502 555 2337 4419 4862 6122 6285 6485 6974 6772 6814 12538 18622 17581 18449 18634 19502 1387 2016 4428 4986 6128 6384 6517 6593 6776 6813 12588 13687 17581 18449 18634 19502 1698 3019 4486 5194 6127 6447 6646 6846 6882 7772 8613 12583 13004 17806 18634 19426 1719 3029 4489 5404 6124 6451 6562 6699 7520 10720 12825 16030 17748 18631 19467

OVERSEAS NEWS

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Tehran assembly to open as poll protests continue

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN TEHRAN

IRAN'S Constituent Assembly is due to open tomorrow. Wide-spread protests are continuing over the manner in which the elections to it were held a week ago.

Maraghei as voices independent of the conservative clergy. The turnout at the polls appears to have been much lower than the Government or Ayatollah Khomeini would have liked.

Irregularities and for a clear signal from Shariat-Madari. Much of the interest in the assembly is likely to focus on the strength of the fundamentalist demand for considerable re-writing of the draft constitution to bring it into line with Islamic principles.



New hope of E. African co-operation

By John Worrall in Nairobi

ONE BY-PRODUCT of the Commonwealth Summit could be the start of a new era in East African regional co-operation after years of stagnation.

W. Germany being urged to step up coal imports

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE West German Government is being urged to step up its imports of coal in order to cope with its ambitious coal-gasification and liquefaction plans for the 1980s.

domestic production could be increased about 7 per cent—this accounting for 23-25 per cent of West German energy needs—in the 1980s. Some of the 28m tonnes of coal which West Germany exports annually could also be diverted to the domestic market.

But Christian Democrat politicians believe this goal is realistic and that the long-term answer is to dismantle the network of subsidies and allow imported coal, which is already competitive with oil imports, to compete freely against domestically produced coal.

Egyptair facing deadline on DC-10

McDONNELL-DOUGLAS has told Egyptair it will not be extending its August 15 deadline for the payment of a \$5.8m (£2.6m) refundable "good faith" payment originally due in April for four DC-10-30 wide-bodied aircraft the airline has contracted to buy.

After the Chicago air crash in May, McDonnell-Douglas agreed to a number of extensions of the deadline, but interest has been accruing on the payment since June 11.

Soaring deposits at Iran bank

BY OUR TEHRAN CORRESPONDENT

DEPOSITS HELD by Bank Mellī, Iran's biggest bank have risen by 204bn rials (£1.2bn) in the five months since the revolution.

revolutionary turmoil. Also its predominance over the other banks (now nationalised) appears to have increased.

Stressing Bank Mellī's role as a national institution, Mr. Shoraka said that since the revolution the bank had taken a number of measures to make credit more widely available to industry.

Australia may cut textiles aid

THE AUSTRALIAN Industries Assistance Commission has recommended changes to the methods of protection of Australia's textile, clothing and footwear industries, aimed at forcing inefficient companies out of business.

that the recommendations were only a draft and still subject to alteration by the IAC itself. They urged business to put their comments on the draft to meetings to be held in Sydney and Melbourne in September and November.

entry for lightweight woven fabrics, a 40 per cent duty on other woven fabrics and a 30 per cent duty on knitted goods. The IAC also recommended that the industries be reviewed again before 1986 to consider future assistance arrangements.

Singapore GDP grows by 9.7%

BY GEORGIE LEE IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE REGISTERED a real economic growth rate of 9.7 per cent in the first half of this year.

than 8 per cent for the whole of this year is predicted against 8.6 per cent for the whole of 1979.

Industrial production, boosted by advances in electronics, electricals and petroleum refining, expanded at an annual rate of 17.4 per cent, compared with 9.4 per cent in the first half of last year.

Norway wins hydro contract

BY FAY GJETER IN OSLO

STANDARD TELEFON og Kabelfabrik of Norway has secured more than half of a \$200m contract to supply and lay high-voltage submarine cables between the Canadian mainland and Vancouver Island for the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority.

Denmark. The cable-laying ship, Skagerak, specially built for that job, will be employed on the Canadian project.

Four cables will be laid, side by side, over a distance of nearly 40 kilometres and total transmission capacity will be 3,200 mw.

Manila diesel plant talks continue

BY DANIEL NELSON IN MANILA

THE PHILIPPINES government's talks with Berlin and Mainz of West Germany on the establishment of two diesel engine plants have progressed to the point where the extent of local content is now the main outstanding subject.

Mr. Robert Ongpin, Minister of Industry, told the Financial Times that negotiations were continuing, mainly on the details. Incentives are understood to be among these.

To Kenyan businessmen the continued closure of the border with Tanzania seems an unnecessary interruption of normal trading patterns. For socialist Tanzania it arises from ideological dislike of Kenya's free enterprise methods.

West cautious over Soviet car venture

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

THE SOVIET Union wants to put a new family saloon on the road as quickly as possible and has had discussions with a handful of Western European manufacturers about the project.

BL of Britain has either been involved or not. So far the West's experience with the USSR has not been a particularly happy one. Fiat of Italy helped the Russians set up a car plant at Togliatti on what was virtually a greenfield site on the banks of the Volga, in the late 1960s.

About three out of ten of the cars produced would be exported and the Russians point out that the Western producers could easily absorb the 60,000 to 70,000 cars a year involved into their European networks. However, in Western Europe there is overcapacity in car production already.

VIETNAM'S PROBLEMS MOUNT

Defection another blow to Hanoi

BY NAYAN CHANDA, RECENTLY IN HANOI

FOR THE first time in the 49 years' history of the Vietnamese Communist Party, a senior leader has defected to the enemy.

dropped from the Central Committee and removed from the position of Chairman of the Minorities Commission.

at the Geneva Conference will be a drop in the bucket in view of the size of the problem.



Mr. Hoang Van Hoan (left) pictured in Peking yesterday just hours after the Chinese Government acknowledged his defection from Vietnam.

Mr. Hoang Van Hoan (left) pictured in Peking yesterday just hours after the Chinese Government acknowledged his defection from Vietnam.

it or not, most of the remaining 800,000 Chinese are just waiting to leave.

The talks have dragged on and on mainly, it appears, because the Russians are offering a relatively poor deal. They want the Western company involved to put up cash, new technology and other expertise and take the payment in the form of Russian-built cars.

The Russian car, based on the old Fiat 124, is being produced at the rate of more than 700,000 a year; Fiat did not seem pleased when the car, called the Lada, appeared in Western markets at low prices. Some say it hastened the withdrawal of the Fiat 124.

The Russians had in mind that the "lucky" Western manufacturer would pay for the re-equipment programme at the Moskvitch plant, help solve the start-up problems, and, of course, provide the technology for a completely new car and then take as payment cars produced at the Moscow plant.

Poland's aircraft industry comes of age

BY LESLIE COLTIN IN BERLIN

Poland's rapid industrial development in recent years has made it the second ranking aircraft manufacturer in Comecon and the world's sixth largest, with 90 per cent of its production destined for export.

Recent successes of Poland's aviation industry—known, as nearly everything else is, in Polish industry by its initials PZL—includes sales of aircraft engines to the United States as well as a contract with Moscow to supply sub-assemblies for the Soviet Airbus, the Ilyushin 86. Poland is also readying production of a twin engine executive aircraft, in a licence arrangement with Piper Aircraft of the U.S.

The modern Polish aircraft industry had its origins in the darkest days of the Second World War when the Soviet Union commissioned plants in the liberated part of Poland to repair Soviet-built fighter aircraft. The first larger orders followed from Moscow for Soviet-licensed agricultural aircraft and engines.

Mig-15 and other combat aircraft for the Polish Air Force. Today, however, the only military aircraft produced in Poland are jet trainers such as the TS-11 Iskra.

Poland's aircraft industry comes of age

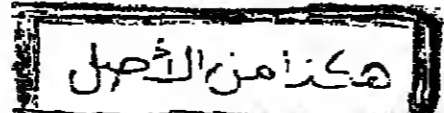
BY LESLIE COLTIN IN BERLIN

Poland's rapid industrial development in recent years has made it the second ranking aircraft manufacturer in Comecon and the world's sixth largest, with 90 per cent of its production destined for export.

with Rockwell International of the U.S. to build an aircraft capable of lifting an especially large quantity of chemicals, the M-18 Dromader.

It is described as the world's largest capacity agricultural aircraft with a piston engine and is an enlarged version of the American-built Thrush complete with a Polish engine made under Soviet licence. PZL has delivered 15 of the 600 h.p. 38 engines to the U.S. this year for use in the Thrush.

of Poland's broadening contacts with Western aircraft companies, have agreed to let Poland produce sub-assemblies for the Soviet Airbus A-86 which is to be put in service in the early 1980s.



UK NEWS

TEN YEARS AGO THE EMERGENCY BEGAN, AND TROOPS WERE SENT IN...

Plans to cut attractions of not working

THE GOVERNMENT is working on plans to widen the gap between the earnings of people-in-work and the unemployed...

Post Office creates research division

A NEW postal operation and research division is being formed in the Post Office. This move is seen as preparatory to the division of the corporation into two businesses...

Strikes cause slight fall in July vehicle output

BOOTH and commercial vehicle production eased back from June levels last month but remained ahead of output in July last year.

Ferry survey move on Tunnel

THE GOVERNMENT has commissioned a survey of motorists using cross-Channel ferries in a first move towards evaluating the prospects for a Channel Tunnel.

Follow the AA sign to Moscow

THREE AUTOMOBILE Association motorists experts set off from Britain yesterday to chart an overland route for British motorists to the Moscow 1980 Olympics.

Violence again in Belfast

By Our Belfast Correspondent

VIOLENCE WHICH security forces in Ulster feared would mark the anniversaries falling this week returned to the streets of Belfast yesterday.

Parades

Temperatures were raised further by Provisional Sinn Fein, the IRA political wing, which spoke of plans to barricade streets in the Bogside.

Two brokers dominated big gilts purchase

A LARGE part of the £400m to £600m nominal of the tap stock sold on Wednesday went to clients of two stockbrokers.

The U.S. lobby for Irish peace

THE PAST seven days have scarcely been a fruitful period for Anglo-American exchanges on the Ulster problem...

point about Mr. Carey is that neither he nor the three other most prominent critics of Britain's policies on Ulster...

Moderates

Mr. O'Neill's public call in May for a ban on handgun sales to the RUC might seem to contradict this...

In the broad spectrum of Irish-American opinion on Ulster, these men are undoubtedly moderates, ready to condemn the violence in public and certainly much more understanding of the British Government's problems and priorities...

There is much more nuance to their actions than may be commonly understood in Britain. There is, first of all, the feeling that the violence and bloodshed has gone on too long...

While some in Britain might question the right of the Americans to involve themselves in the country's grievous domestic problem, Governor Carey and his colleagues barely give it a second thought.

Altogether 16m Americans claim to be Irish ancestry and large numbers of Irish Americans, particularly in the North East, do have a special regard for and interest in Irish affairs.

That also is the opinion of Mr. Carey and his friends and if they say so in public with perhaps fewer qualifications than a British Minister might make, they do not believe they are giving aid and comfort to the IRA.

Indeed, Senator Kennedy's statement in a Belfast Telegraph interview in May that the Irish Republic should help moves towards power sharing in Ulster and the eventual unification in Ireland...

As the holder of a chair of medicine at Dublin University and the owner of a class Fifth Avenue practice, Cahill has the opportunity and the friendships in Dublin to bring Carey into contact with the thinking of leading politicians in the Republic.

Essentially a call to a common front of all men of good-will in North and South, Carey's lecture brought him much abuse and opprobrium from the activists in the Republican cause in New York...

But he then went on to alienate many British politicians with a newspaper article here, co-authored with Cahill, which appeared just before the general election...

The article raised a few eyebrows because of the strength of its anger at successive British governments and its urgent call for a more definitive solution.

Both Carey and Cahill were worried about a slender Conservative victory on May 3 which might give the Ulster Unionists greater influence on London policies.

If these worries had proved well founded then the pressures here on President Carter to involve himself more directly would be much greater than they are.

They do exist, however, and this is where Carey, O'Neill, Kennedy and Moynihan may constitute the most important Irish lobby of all.

Mr. Carter's pre-election prospects are already cloudy enough.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK Manila, Philippines DM 100,000,000 7 1/4% Deutsche Mark Bonds of 1979/1989

Interest: 7 1/4% p. a., payable on August 1 of each year. Offering Price: 99 1/4%. Repayment: on August 1, 1989 at par. Listing: Frankfurt am Main and Düsseldorf.

New Issue August 10, 1979. This advertisement appears as a matter of record only.



Manila, Philippines DM 100,000,000 7 1/4% Deutsche Mark Bonds of 1979/1989

- List of banks and financial institutions: Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank, Westdeutsche Landesbank, Girozentrale, etc.

Egypt facing deadline on DC Optimistic forecast for oil supplies

By Ray Daffer, Energy Editor. N OPTIMISTIC forecast that I could remain the main source of energy into at least the second quarter of the next century was made yesterday at the International Banking Summer school in Cambridge.

It came from Prof. Peter Dell, former energy adviser to the Department of Energy and Professor of Economic Geography at Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

The short-term problems were asking the longer-term outlook for energy in general and oil in particular, he said.

Long-term economic growth was possible without greater energy use than at present economies could maintain an annual growth rate of 3 per cent even if the expansion in energy use could be limited to 5 per cent a year.

Constraint in energy use, coupled with the development of the world's considerable remaining oil resources, offered the least risky key to the world's energy future.

Taking a modest view of the ultimate size of the world's oil resource base and a liberal view of the development of oil demand, an oil-based economy could be prolonged into the second quarter of the 21st century, he said.

The world, he said, had a "two or three generations period of grace," which could provide the necessary breathing space for the development of other energy sources.

Sunderland may land ship order

By Lynton McLain. SUNDERLAND Shipbuilders, which lost almost £2m last year and is working on its last four ships on order, may be about to win an order for two 31,000 deadweight ton bulk carriers.

This would provide work for a year for up to 1,200 employees out of the total workforce of 4,400 men. The current order book is expected to last two years.

Mr. James Gillilan, the chairman of the company, which is owned by British Shipbuilders, the state corporation, said yesterday he was optimistic about the work being placed with the Wear-based yards.

He was awaiting the outcome of talks between an unnamed customer and the customer's bankers.

The orders are also understood to be awaiting clearance from the European Commission for the use of the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund which is available to subsidise up to a third of the cost of new ships built in Britain.

July steel output up

By John Lloyd. UK STEEL production last month rose over July last year, while production over the first seven months of this year is also up on the same period in 1978.

Production in July averaged 867,000 tonnes a week from both the British Steel Corporation and private mills. This compared with an average of 867,500 tonnes in July of last year.

Average weekly production for the first seven months of 1979 stood at 415,900 tonnes, compared with 399,500 tonnes over the January-July period in 1978.

July's output figures were down on the weekly average of 451,700 tonnes for June, a fall which reflected the effects of annual holidays in the major steel making areas.

Accountancy 'scapegoat' tactics attacked

By MICHAEL LAFFERTY, BANKING CORRESPONDENT. PROFESSIONAL accountancy bodies were accused yesterday of using members who have been convicted of criminal offences as scapegoats to preserve their professional image.

A report published by Apex Trust, a national charity for ex-offenders, shows that 92 per cent of accountants appearing before the English Institute of Chartered Accountants' disciplinary committee between 1970 and 1977 because of criminal convictions were consequently excluded from the Institute.

In contrast, only 45 per cent of those reported for unprofessional conduct were excluded.

But the report finds that the disciplinary bodies retain much scope for discretion and flexibility. "Without any formal departure from stated policy we also find members being excluded for such offences as stealing a pair of trousers, the theft of five gallons of petrol, supplying cannabis and failing to make payments on County Court judgments."

Decisions of no action and a reprimand for members convicted of handling stolen property and the possession of cannabis were also encountered. The most suitable candidates for becoming scapegoats—the

Admiral Byngs of the professions—are persons who have already been convicted, the study claims.

"The accountancy bodies, like other professional bodies, have in the past used this kind of opportunity to improve their public image, while rejecting some other opportunities to improve the standard of their service."

"Certainly the profusion of theoretical statements by leading members of professional bodies over recent years with the stress on such nebulous commitments as 'upholding the

dignity of the profession,' or 'remembering one's duty to the community' seem more designed to maintain or improve a public image than a desire to make genuine improvements to the conduct of, or service given by, their membership."

The Apex study emphasises the apparent harshness of some disciplinary committees' decisions. "When the harshest sanction possible is imposed for petty theft, such a sentence compares unfavourably in relation to a reprimand being given for the misrepresentation (albeit unintentional) of the possession of £14m."

Changes in rateable value system urged

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

THE GOVERNMENT should carry out a major overhaul of the system used to fix household rateable values, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday.

Mrs Rita Hale, the association's under-secretary for finance, was particularly critical of the wide discrepancies between rateable values in different parts of the country.

The AMA and other local authority associations have attacked the Government for its decision to cancel the rating revaluation planned for 1982—the first since 1973.

Mrs Hale said yesterday that his "breathing space" should now be used for an urgent review of the valuation system.

Figures produced by the Inland Revenue reveal the incredibly wide variation in domestic rate bills between one

part of the country and another. "How much you pay in rates depends not only on the rate in the pound the local authority levies, but on the rateable value put on your property by the Inland Revenue and these can vary tremendously.

"For example, the rateable value of a standard domestic property in Mid-Glamorgan is set at £139, whereas in Hertfordshire it is £277. In metropolitan districts there is a range from £162 in Barnsley to £239 in Wolverhampton."

The problem is more acute in London, says the AMA. Standard rateable values range from £255 in Bexley to £658 in Westminster, and the association is to press for a fairer deal for London ratepayers whose domestic rates were on average about 40 per cent higher than the rest of the country.

The regional discrepancies in rateable values were a major factor behind the wide differences between rate bills in different parts of the country.

The level of rateable value also affected the amount of rate support grant paid by central government, says Mrs Hale.

"London suffers particularly badly on this count. Because rateable values in the capital are so high, it is argued that London local authorities do not need the same proportion of support grant as elsewhere in the country.

"For this reason the Government 'claws back' some of the grant that London would otherwise have received.

"We want measures to be included that will ensure that average domestic rate increases within London next year will be equal to those outside London."

Health authority asks Jenkin for more time to make cuts

BY LISA WOOD

A LONDON area health authority yesterday announced that it will appeal to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Secretary, against a £3.7m cut in spending.

Members of the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow AHA have agreed to go ahead with cuts of £1m but want more time to make the other savings.

Last week Mr Jenkin suspended members of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham AHA who refused to implement cuts and replaced them with commissioners.

Mr Brian Herbert, treasurer of the AHA, said: "We want to see the Secretary of State tell him of our problems and the repercussions of making all the cuts within an eight-month period.

"We are going ahead with cuts of about £1m and we will make detailed proposals for the other £2.7m. But we cannot make these savings without drastic cuts and we want an extension of time to do this—until 1981.

We are not saying we are not prepared to do anything, we are merely saying we need more time to do it."

He said the proposed cuts in spending—a reduction of the authority's budget for this year from £82m to £78m—would mean the closure of about 700 beds, redundancies and a reduction

in services.

Mr Herbert said the position of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham AHA members had been discussed by his authority's members. They had decided it was better for the AHA to make savings than to have commissioners brought in who "do not know the area or the services."

The AHA's request will be first examined by the North West Thames Regional Health Authority.

An attempt to stop the South East Thames Regional Health Authority from co-operating with the commissioners in charge of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham area health authority failed yesterday.

The non-co-operation move was made by Mr Ted Knight, leader of the Labour-controlled Lambeth council and a member of the RHA.

He warned that the cuts being examined by the commission—brought in by the Government when it suspended the AHA for refusing to make cuts of about £3m—would cause deaths.

But the meeting was told by Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury, that it would be impossible not to co-operate with the commissioners. He said the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham authority had a history of overspending.

Pay body offers catering workers £41.20 minimum

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

NEW MINIMUM weekly rates of £50 for adult non-service workers and £41.20 for service workers have been fixed by the wages council for staff in licensed hotels and restaurants.

Minimum rates will be £4 higher in London rather than the present £2.40.

The new rates, which will go out for consultation within the industry before becoming statutory obligations, were historically attacked yesterday by the unions.

"We are still a very long way off our objective of providing a living wage for this grossly exploited group of workers," said Mr Fred Cooper, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union. He leads the union side in the Licensed Residential Establishment and Licensed Restaurant Wages Council.

The council affects directly and indirectly the pay of more than 300,000 full-time and part-time catering employees.

The six existing grades of non-service workers—which cover cleaners, lift attendants,

hutchers and other groups—will be amalgamated into one grade on a minimum of £50 outside London. Present minimums for these grades are £40.40 to £42.50.

The three service grades, covering staff who would normally be in a position to receive tips and include waiters, porters and cloakroom attendants, are also to be grouped into one grade on a minimum outside London of £41.20.

Adult rates will be paid from the age of 20 rather than 21. Minimum rates for younger staff are being raised pro rata but will still be considerably lower than the adult rate.

Of all the groups, the chambermaids have come out best from the settlement, which was proposed by the employers side, supported by the independents on the wages council but voted against by the unions.

Chambermaids are to be reclassified as non-service rather than service workers, so their minimum pay in the provinces will be raised from £33.60 to £50.

Overtime for all staff will be paid at time and a half after 40 hours instead of time and a quarter for the first four hours. Bank holiday pay at double time has been restored for part-time workers.

Deductions for meals are not being increased but there is a 25 per cent rise—up to £13 a week—on deductions for full board.

The union side is questioning or appealing against a number of items in the proposed settlement, including the classification as full-time worker for those staff who work 40 hours rather than the present 32.

The unions had been seeking a minimum of £65 and have failed to achieve improvements in a number of areas, including payments for "spreadover" shifts.

"This package is disappointing," said Mr Cooper. "While the percentage seems large, we are still in the position where most people in this industry will need to claim supplementary benefits in order to live."

Micro-electronics 'may lack trainees'

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

THE ELECTRONICS industry is concerned about the future of a £12m micro-processor training scheme to be run by the Department of Education.

Since the election, the scheme has been under review in light of the Government's plans to cut spending in education and science by £55m.

The Department announced the scheme in March, when a consultative document was sent to industry. The training programme would cover England, Scotland and Wales.

The previous Government stressed the importance of

training people to meet future needs. A reduction in the range of the scheme could affect the country's ability to exploit the micro-electronics field.

The fate of a £40m optoelectronics support scheme planned to be run by the Department of Industry, also announced last March, is not known. This scheme would provide finance for companies wishing to use optoelectronics (electronics associated with light, such as lasers and optical fibres) and would work on similar lines to the present micro-electronics support scheme.

Czech civil rights snub for Labour

By Philip Rawstone

THE Czech Ambassador in London has refused to meet a Labour Party delegation to discuss the treatment of civil rights campaigners in his country.

Members of Labour's national executive, who requested the meeting, were accused of "gross interference in the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia."

The NEC last month passed a resolution condemning the arrest of Charter '77 supporters in Czechoslovakia as "the most serious act of repression" in that country since the 1950s.

It was decided then that Miss Joan Lester, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and Mr Alex Kilson, should inform the Czech Ambassador of the party's "grave concern" over the issue.

Miss Lester said yesterday that the unprecedented refusal to meet the delegation was "a setback" for all those genuinely concerned about detente and co-operation in Europe.

She added: "We shall not give up, however. We shall continue to press our point of view wherever and whenever we can."

Matthews reconsiders Daily Star's future

BY JOHN LLOYD

MR VICTOR MATTHEWS, chairman of Express Newspapers, said yesterday that he was "looking carefully" at the future of the Daily Star. He would not invest further in it while there was no agreement to print in London as well as Manchester.

"People think it's essential that we can continue to publish newspapers," he said. "It's not essential. I'm looking at the bottom line."

Mr Matthews said that investment in the Star had been substantial and that "it isn't winning money, that's for sure. I would not go so far as to say that its future is in doubt. But it is very desirable to come to London, and I'm taking a straight commercial view of the paper."

Earlier this week, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, managing director of Express Newspapers, managed to obtain agreement from distri-

bution workers to continue handling the Star in the south of England. This followed a rejection by machine managers at the Daily Express of an offer of extra payments to print the Star on Express machines.

The machine managers, members of the National Graphical Association, are looking for payments amounting to £50 extra a week, and extra staff for a machine room. Express says that these demands, together with "knock-on" effects, would increase the cost of printing in London by £1m.

Both sides now appear pessimistic about reaching agreement. Mr Bill Booroff, the NGA's London regional secretary, said that London printing was unlikely. Mr Matthews said yesterday that "in view of the demands being made, it isn't on to move. It doesn't mean the end of the paper, but there must be some give and take."

Threat of hospital action

Financial Times Reporter

HOSPITALS and clinics throughout the UK could again be hit by industrial action, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) said yesterday.

The warning came after a breakdown of talks at a meeting of the "White" group, which is responsible for negotiating wages and conditions.

NALGO has 3,000 members employed as area and district works officers, which is 70 per cent of the total staff employed in these posts.

Talks broke down because no agreement could be reached on the 1979 pay award nor on consolidation of bonus allowances.

A management pay offer of staged rises, conditional on the staff side accepting an independent comparability exercise, was rejected because it did not restore differentials with craftsmen (currently 26.18 per cent), nor did it match increases given other health service personnel.

On the question of bonus payments, NALGO claimed that the amounts set out in the October 1978 agreement were not being paid. The point of principle between the two sides regarding bonuses was not resolved by the management's offer to look at individual cases, the union said.

A special meeting of NALGO's National Health Committee is to be held on August 17, to be followed by a meeting of the National Advisory Committee.

The committee has already recommended that in the event of no solution being offered by the management, a national delegate meeting of works officers should be called to consider further action.

A warning by the General Nursing Council that nurses who go on strike could face disciplinary action is to be referred to the TUC's health services committee.

The executive of the Confederation of Health Service Employees also decided yesterday to seek an urgent meeting with the Registrar of the GNC.

CORSE officials are angry at what they see as a thinly-disguised attempt to dissuade nurses from joining unions. They also disapprove of the GNC's statement while there is a disciplinary hearing arising out of industrial action pending.

Customs board sees both unions today

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS, LABOUR STAFF

THE TWO Civil Service unions involved in the customs staff work to rule will decide today whether to continue with their action after a meeting with the Customs and Excise Board to discuss staff cuts.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association will meet before their talks with the board. The unions have been co-operating over the work to rule which started last Friday and was originally planned to last a fortnight.

Miss Judy McKnight, the SCPS national officer, told the Customs section of the union had postponed making a decision until after talks with the board. The unions want more information about planned cuts.

They had said after a meeting on Wednesday with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, that the Government was prepared to scale down proposed cuts in the 28,000 Customs and Excise staff.

A strike by nearly 500 staff at 13 inner London magistracies courts is planned for about a

fortnight's time. The strike involves the CPSA and SCPS follows the collapse of pay talks between the unions and the committee of London magistrates on Wednesday night.

Both unions yesterday confirmed the strike action would be official. Mr Alistair Graham, deputy general secretary of CPSA, said the courts would quickly grind to a halt. They would be able to continue initially without the back up administrative staff but summonses would not be issued, fines uncollected and referrals to higher courts made more difficult.

The unions are claiming parity with Civil Service pay awards of 20 to 30 per cent. They have been offered 9.4 per cent plus a reference to the Clegg Commission on comparability.

The offer is similar to that offered administrative staff in courts outside London, who belong to the Association of Magistrates' Clerks. The offer would deal with 20 in at 13 inner London magistracies courts and a restructuring of salaries.

European computer sales 'will reach £2.9bn'

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

SALES of small business computers in Europe will reach £2.9bn by 1988, up from £680m in 1978, according to a report by Frost and Sullivan, the U.S. consultants.

The UK's share of this market will be roughly the same as at present—at 16 per cent, behind France's 19 per cent and West Germany's 26 per cent.

Sales in the UK are expected to grow from £1110 last year to £2300m in 1983 and to £471m in 1988. West German sales for 1988 are forecast at £738m and French at £580m.

The report divided small business computers—defined as machines costing less than £70,000—into three categories: the first ranging from "extended typewriters" to "advanced desk calculators"; the second, single or multi-station disc computers; the

third, larger office systems costing between £35,000 and £70,000.

The first of these categories is forecast to grow from 1978 annual European sales of £145m to 1988 sales of £515m. The second should rise over the same period from £220m to £715m, while the third should rise from £282m to £950m.

The report notes that "somewhat disturbingly, companies dedicated to the small business systems market must either be small enough to pursue a narrow-niche marketing strategy or else sufficiently large to become a multi-national supplier, usually with products in two of the three price categories."

Small Business Computer Market in Europe: Frost and Sullivan, 104-122, Marylebone Lane, London, W1.

Heseltine's adviser

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

MR MICHAEL HESELTINE, Environment Secretary, is to appoint a special adviser from private industry to guide him on housing matters.

Mr Tom Baron, chairman and managing director of Christian Salresen (Properties) which builds houses under the name of Wellmar is to join Mr Heseltine's department on October 1. The appointment to run for six months.

Mr Baron, secretary of the Volume Housebuilders Study Group, formerly owned Wellmar, which was taken over by Christian Salresen.

Yellow Pages contract is valued at £345m

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

GENERAL TELEPHONE Directory, a subsidiary of the U.S. General Telephone and Electronics, which last week won the British Yellow Pages advertising contracts, estimates the deal to be worth £345m.

Mr Theodore Brophy, GTE chairman and chief executive, has said that the six year contract for directory advertising is the biggest single contract its subsidiary has received.

GTE will gain about 40 per cent of the present advertising sales in the UK when the con-

tract becomes effective in 1981. This will be a major part of GTE's international operations.

The remaining portion of the Yellow Pages contract is shared between another U.S. company, ITT, and the Thomson Organisation.

ITT's contract will last for nine years and will represent more of the UK advertising sales market than GTE. Thomson, which previously handled the entire Yellow Pages advertising, has only a three-year agreement with the Post Office.

Ceramics safety call

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

THE CERAMICS industry needs to make a concerted effort to improve safety, says the Health and Safety Executive in its latest report.

The HSE calls for a "really effective onslaught on those practices and problems which still lead to accidents and ill health."

Many of the 60,000 workers in the industry face health risks from lead and silica dust. The HSE wants the industry to find suitable substitutes. It has been the introduction of control measures which has reduced the health risk from lead and silica—not a limit to their use.

The report is critical of the industry's past record in the field of health and safety. It describes it as doing little more than the legal minimum.

Many pottery companies and suppliers of machinery and materials have not yet understood their new fundamental responsibilities under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, says the HSE.

The report warns that increasing mechanisation in the ceramics industry could lead to a greater number of accidents. It stresses that machinery manufacturers had a legal responsibility to design out hazards.

TUC backs fight to save Shotton

BY OUR LABOUR EDITOR

THE TUC has pledged to support steelworkers fighting British Steel Corporation plans to run-down the Shotton plant in North Wales.

Mr Bill Sires, chairman of the TUC steel committee, told a workers' delegation which had travelled to London to lobby union leaders that any attempt by the BSC to close down the works, by diverting orders for example, would be opposed.

He said the steel committee expected to make a decision in October on its response to the plans for Shotton and Corby, the other big threatened plant.

Meanwhile the union has incorporated in to meet the unions and the Shotton workers. The proposals put forward for

Shotton went far beyond those advanced by the former BSC chairman, Sir Monty Finniston, in 1972.

A shut-down at Shotton on the scale proposed would put up to 10,000 people out of work. This was much higher than previous estimates.

The steel committee had one of its regular monthly meetings with the corporation yesterday. Plant closures were not discussed, in spite of the delegation's attempt to have the issue raised.

Union meetings at Shotton this week showed that most of the workers wanted to resist closure, rather than accept possibly attractive redundancy terms.

Takeovers rise slightly to 136 in April-June

BY RAYMOND MAUGHAN

A TOTAL of 136 companies were taken over in the April-June period this year for a total cost of £200m, compared with 124 companies acquired for £240m in the previous three months, according to Trade and Industry, the Government journal.

As in the first quarter, there were no mergers in the second quarter and a substantial rise in spending on independent companies was partly offset by a steep fall in purchases of subsidiaries by £10m to £34m.

The journal confirms a substantial slackening from the takeover spree recorded in the final stages of 1978 when acquisition activity was at its highest since 1973.

There were 137 acquisitions in the fourth quarter of 1978, against a quarterly average of 121 takeovers in 1977.

There were five acquisitions of more than £10m in the second quarter. In the largest, Lonrho acquired Scottish and Universal Investments for £47.3m.

In the other four, Norcorac acquired H. and R. Johnson-Richards Tiles for £34.5m. BAT Industries acquired Argos Distributors for £31.5m. Associated Communications Corporation bought Intercontinental Property Holdings for £19.5m and Comet Radiovision Services paid £12.4m for Caledonian Holdings.

The 19 largest deals, accounting for 14 per cent of the total number, were for sums over £2m and comprised 71 per cent of the total takeover expenditure during the period.

The average cost of acquisitions was £1.9m, slightly lower than in 1978 but somewhat higher than the average for the first quarter this year.

Isle of Man Post Office shows profit

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL year of business is reported by the Isle of Man Post Office in its annual report for the year ending March 31. But it warns that before the end of this year, it will have to increase postal rates. They have been unchanged since 1976 and are now the lowest in Europe.

The accounts show a profit of £1,137,990 made up of £961,720 from the philatelic bureau, £7,030 on personal services and £169,240 on investment income. Of the profits, £40,000 has been paid to the Manx Government.

Bank dispute

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

MEMBERS of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union are due to begin industrial action on Monday at F C Finance, a subsidiary of the Co-operative Bank, in a pay dispute.

The union said yesterday that the dispute had been provoked by the bank's insistence that the union must accept a non-graded job evaluation scheme for managerial and field staff. The union says "no scheme would prevent it from making proper market comparisons on pay."

Miss Ivy Cameron, union assistant secretary, said yesterday that the bank had been prepared to arbitrate on all salary and related issues but only on its terms.

London weighting up

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

IMPROVEMENTS in London weightings have been negotiated by the National and Local Government Officers' Association for its 110,000 local government workers in the London area.

Back-dated to July 1 this year, London area allowances will be increased as follows: Inner London, up £225 a year to £728; Outer London, up £80 to £398; Inner fringe allowance, up £42 to £237; Outer fringe allowance, up £30 to £159.

The new amounts negotiated through the National Joint Council for Local Authorities, Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Staff, were recommended at a meeting on August 7.

A commitment was set up to review all aspects of London weighting, including boundary anomalies and the payments to staff under 18, in time for next year's negotiations.

Chemists' pay formula agreed

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

A PAY formula was agreed yesterday between NHS retail chemists' representatives and Dr. Gerard Vaughan, Health Minister.

The Minister told representatives of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee that the Government was pleased with anxious to cooperate with the offer.

Dr. Vaughan said the formula details of which are yet to be worked out, would go a long way to restore comparability with other health professionals.

Mr Alan Smith, chief executive of the committee, said that he was pleased with the offer.

Tornado 'central' to UK air defence plans

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE is fully committed to the specialist air defence variant of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft. There is no Government intention of cancelling plans to buy 165 of these aircraft, costing £1.8bn.

This was made clear yesterday at the roll-out at British Aerospace's Warton, Lancs, airfield of the first prototype of the ADV Tornado. Air Marshal Sir John Nicholls Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, denied recent reports in the U.S. that cancellation of the ADV was likely to be discussed soon in Anglo-U.S. talks in Washington.

"The ADV Tornado is central

to our plans for the future air defence of Britain and NATO's western seaboard," said Sir John.

"We made our choice several years ago in 1975, when we evaluated every available type of aircraft. We see no reason to change that choice now."

A total of 809 Tornado aircraft is planned for the three countries involved in the programme. The RAF will be taking 355 (including 165 of the ADV), 324 will go to Western Germany and 100 to Italy, for a total programme cost of about £7.6bn.

Of these aircraft, 644 will be of the basic version, each costing £29m (about £5.5bn in all) while the other 165 will be the

ADV, costing £10.7m each (about £1.8bn in all).

So far, production contracts for 314 of the basic Tornados have been signed by the three governments and production is now well under way in the three countries. The initial production contract for the ADV Tornado is expected to be signed next year, with deliveries of this version of the aircraft for the RAF starting in the 1980s.

The ADV (which will be called F-2 by the RAF when in service) is a bigger version than the basic aircraft. It has a new radar and air-to-air missiles designed to intercept enemy bombers approaching UK and NATO airspace by the back door far over the North At-

lantic. The air defence of the European Western seaboard is allocated by NATO to the RAF.

In recent years a powerful American aviation lobby has been trying to undermine the Tornado programme and get Europe, including the RAF, to buy instead U.S. combat aircraft, such as the McDonnell Douglas F-15.

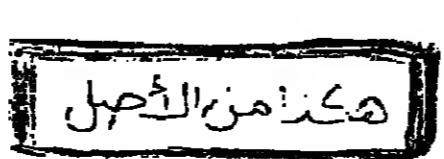
The latest suggestion that such cancellation was a possible topic for discussion was published only this week in the U.S. Journal Aviation Week.

The Vice-Chief of the Air Staff dismissed this suggestion yesterday. "But there is no doubt that between now and the introduction of the ADV

Tornado the UK's air defence capability will be very weak as a result of a long succession of cuts in defence spending.

To correct that weakness, the RAF may be obliged to buy a small quantity of some other type of combat aircraft, such as Phantoms or even F-15s. These options are now being studied, but no decisions have yet been taken and may not be for some time.

Such a purchase may be a topic for discussion when Mr Geoffrey Frieze, the Minister for the RAF, goes to Washington for defence talks in October. But it was made clear yesterday that he will not be discussing the cancellation of any part of the Tornado programme.



MANAGEMENT

John Moore looks at why a British insurance broker is pooling its resources with the world's biggest broker

How Bowring is preparing for the year 2000

SELDOM HAS a series of discussions between two companies made such a profound impact on an industry or commercial sector as those between Bowring (Insurance) Holdings, part of the Bowring group, and Marsh and McLennan Companies of the U.S., the world's largest insurance broker.

The talks, begun a year ago last June, aimed at linking the resources of the two international insurance broking giants, with both parties pooling their respective profits in a scheme, the details of which have yet to be revealed. Under the arrangement no conventional merger is planned.

When Marsh and Bowring unveiled their plans last September, the transatlantic insurance broking community was stunned by the size of the deal, and what it would mean in money terms once the two groups had formally joined forces.

The two companies would be combining broking commissions of around \$500m on insurance premiums—enough to fuel a major insurance company. More startling is that the volume of the premiums that would flow through the new formal link would represent more than the entire premium income flowing into Lloyd's of London itself.

The deal spawned many imitators, no doubt motivated by a fear of becoming overshadowed by the Bowring-Marsh titan, and by old-fashioned greed, when the possibilities of such a scheme were realised.

Since the announcement by Bowring and Marsh of the outlined plan little has been heard of the practical details. Even now nothing is in a form which can yet be presented to the shareholders of the two groups for their approval and is not likely to be for some months to come.

The only outward and visible sign that anything has been happening at all has been the co-sponsoring by Marsh and McLennan and Bowring of the first transatlantic polar expedition.

Marsh has produced a booklet giving all its subsidiary relationships, equity ambitions and joint ventures. Among their aggregate financial resources are listed a number of major insurance companies, under the general heading "the Marsh and McLennan family". Significantly, C. J. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings and the Bowring underwriting



Peter Bowring and Gill Cooke (right) admired for their nerve

company are both included. But behind the scenes a major upheaval is taking place within the Bowring group, one of the most sober of City family companies.

At the centre of this activity is Peter Binney, the 46-year-old chairman and chief executive of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings, the hub of the group's insurance operations. He is a main Board director of the Bowring group and a member of the 16-strong ruling committee of Lloyd's of London.

He approached Marsh and McLennan in June 1978 and since last September, when agreement was reached, has been involved in the thrashing out of the international legal, tax, and regulatory problems behind the deal.

Exploratory

Bowring's rationale behind its move towards Marsh dates from some five years earlier. It came to the conclusion then that by the year 2000, there would be about half a dozen major international insurance brokers in the world. If it wanted to be one of them it could not do it alone, because more than 50 per cent of the world's insurance premiums are generated in the U.S. market.

What it needed was an association with a U.S. broker which was closely involved with that large domestic market. Although exploratory talks

had opened up about that time with Marsh these talks had come to nothing because of the wave of problems that had been created elsewhere in the group by the UK recession.

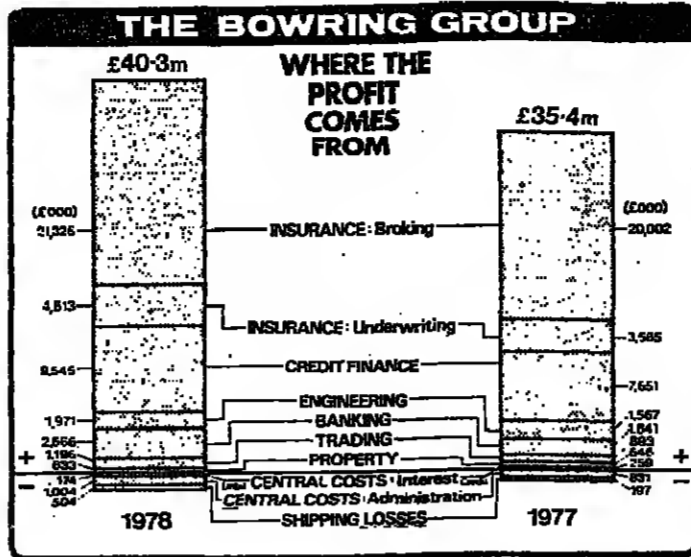
What triggered Bowring's move in 1978 was Marsh's attempt to get closer to Bland Payne, the UK broker in which Marsh held a 20 per cent stake and which was later to merge with Sedgwick Forbes, another major broker.

The approach to Bland Payne by Marsh did not work out, and was followed by Marsh's bid for the British insurance broker, Wigham Poland, which was aborted by the Lloyd's of London controversial 20 per cent ruling. This prevented an equal say in the management.

It was then Bowring moved in, ostensibly on the offensive but largely for defensive reasons.

Mr. Binney made two proposals. The two groups could join forces through the pooling of profits and the co-ordination of insurance operations with no conventional merger taking place, or they could combine through the establishment of a joint company to operate wherever there was a call for Marsh and Bowring to work together. Marsh chose the former plan.

But what Mr. Binney and Bowring were looking for in all this was the fulfilment of three



main aims: irrevocability, or no going back on the deal through the use of a cancellation clause in the agreement; equal voice in management; and the opportunity for Bowring to participate in grass roots business in the U.S.

The first two aims were fundamental to the success of the operation. A casual arrangement could not work towards achieving the goal that both groups had set themselves—to be the largest broking concern—to service and attract some of the largest international insurance accounts.

The principle of equal voice in management was an important point to establish. Marsh and McLennan's broking incomes are more than three times the size of Bowring's. Marsh ranks as number one in the international league of publicly quoted brokers, in terms of broking commissions, while Bowring is in seventh place.

It would have been so much easier if we were of equal size but nevertheless, although they were bigger than we were, they were prepared to give us an equal say in the management," said Mr. Binney.

Since then an advisory committee has been set up between the two groups consisting of two representatives from Bowring and two from Marsh and McLennan. It meets once a month, alternating its venues between London and New York, to review problems and deter-

mine how the placing of the insurance business should be re-organised.

Although Bowring's business relationship with Marsh dates back to 1907, the new formal arrangement between the two concerns has placed Bowring under tremendous pressure. New business has been flooding into the group as Marsh has switched large accounts, which it had previously placed with other London insurance brokers, to its new partner.

Bowring has increased its broking staff by 10 per cent this year and in the process has had to adopt an aggressive approach in securing new staff to service the large accounts.

Buying people

"It is not traditional in Bowring to go out and buy people," says Mr. Binney. "But when you get growth of this magnitude you simply have to; many of them have been handling those accounts now coming to us, when they were placed with other firms."

Group expenses are climbing while the new business is being absorbed and there is not likely to be any appreciable benefit of the jump in business volumes until next year.

Controlling group operations at the centre of the 175 year-old Bowring empire, whose range of activities cover merchant banking, credit finance, shipping, insurance, plant hire,

retail shops and other trading interests, is Gill Cooke, managing director since 1976 and the group chairman, Peter Bowring.

Mr. Cooke, a chartered accountant and a former managing director of the Bowmaker credit finance activities, stresses that each operating subsidiary has a large degree of autonomy. It is only in the areas of resources, acquisitions or merger policies, large items of capital expenditure, that the central management becomes deeply involved in the affairs of the subsidiary.

Although the two top executives have no background in the group's main insurance business—their argument that they have a degree of objectivity, and a greater width of general business experience, that perhaps the insurance specialists do not possess.

Mr. Cooke joined Bowring when the group took over Bowmaker, the credit finance group, in 1969 after a tussle with First National Finance Corporation.

The acquisition was part of an ambitious Bowring plan to create a financial services group which would allow a cross-fertilisation of business between the group's various interests. Insurance broking clients could avail themselves of the facilities offered by Bowmaker, and later by Friedlander's bank, which was acquired in a £25m agreed bid in 1971.

The cross-fertilisation concept proved a difficult plan to implement. The two major acquisitions were followed by the recession of 1973 and 1974. Singer and Friedlander's profits slumped as bad debts piled up, and the demand fell away, and borrowing demand collapsed. Bowmaker moved into a loss as interest rates climbed and had to seek help from the clearing bank "lifeboat". But since then recovery in these activities has been achieved.

The insurance community admired the nerve Bowring displayed in the past year in playing the American deal. Although there were many insurance professionals who argued that a unit of operation of the size of Marsh and Bowring was inappropriate in a service industry.

What Bowring is seeking to prove is that its deal with Marsh can work effectively, and efficiently. For the moment, the defensive advantages of such an arrangement are very apparent.

A raw deal for the disabled

Work and Disability 1977, by Mary Greaves and Bert Massie. The Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14, price £2.50.

TODAY, mainly through coverage in the media there is more awareness than ever in Britain of the disabled section of the population. A leading lobbyist for work opportunities for disabled people is Mary Greaves OBE. This severely handicapped lady has herself earned university degrees and forged a career in the administrative side of the civil service.

In 1968 she travelled throughout Britain researching her first report on Work and Disability, which gave recommendations for action to further the possibilities for severely handicapped people to have equal opportunities as able bodied people of the same abilities.

Work and Disability 1977, written by Mary Greaves and Bert Massie, also a severely handicapped person who is a sociologist and economist working as an executive at RADAR (Royal Society For Disability and Rehabilitation), is an update of their 1968 book. The new book is in no way inflammatory but it is disturbing, reading between the lines, to note that the recommendations of the earlier report still remain largely unfulfilled.

Businessmen have often been heard to admit that they are not familiar with the disability scene. Reading this book should remedy this. Call it, if you like, "What Everyone Would Like to Know About Work and Disability and Hasn't Dared to Ask."

The term "disabled" covers both mentally and physically handicapped people. It includes those congenitally disabled and those affected by ensuing illness or accident. At present there are about 75,000 registered disabled people in the country compared with 64,000 in 1968, when the original report was published. The total number of disabled employees today is estimated to be about 400,000 compared with 520,000 in 1968. Over 12,500 disabled people are employed in sheltered workshops, of which more than 800 work for Remploy, a non-profit making company established in 1945.

Unfortunately, today, there is still a widespread attitude that disabled people should be grateful for any job.

Henry Mara

Technical News

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

METALWORKING

Alloyed cutters for the tough jobs

SWISS hardmetal group, St. Gallen S.A. of Nyon, is manufacturing rhenium-alloyed cutting inserts under licence from Inco Europe. This is the second company to announce that it is producing the new class of sintered carbide developed by Inco's Higher Speed Metals, of Sheffield, reports remarkable results with the new formulation.

The carbides, which improve the performance of throw-away and regrindable cutting tools by factors ranging from 50-300 per cent, were developed at Inco's European Research and Development Centre, Birmingham. It was discovered that the inclusion of a small quantity of rhenium (a precious metal of the platinum group) in the steel-cutting grades of sintered carbide considerably enhanced the cutting performance and extended tool life.

However, because it is completely alloyed, consistent rather than a surface layer, the toughening effect of rhenium is not confined to the exterior of the carbide, making it ideal for brazed-on regrindable tools as well as indexed throwaways. During intensive research in St. Gallen's machining laboratory, rhenium type inserts con-

tinued cutting for 50-100 per cent longer than equivalent non-rhenium tips. But under practical conditions the improvements have turned out to be even greater. Face milling of giant cast steel turbine casings in F. E. Lloyd's Wednesbury machine shop showed a 200 per cent improvement over the previous best carbide, while at Culchester Lath the thread whirling of lead screws using chamfered rhenium tips has resulted in 50 per cent greater output and a 60 per cent increase in tool life. At Wilkins and Mitchell, Darlaston, where massive flame-cut bolsters were machined, the metal removed by each rhenium type insert increased by 300 per cent and machining time was halved.

Rhenium-containing carbide tips are ideal for the tough jobs which include milling, and interrupted turning, especially at high speeds and substantial rates of metal removal. One of the advantages of the development—the "regrindability" of rhenium tips—still has to be exploited. The properties of this particular carbide are not skin deep, they are retained even after regrinding.

Inco Europe, Thames House, Millbank, London SW1P 4QP, 01-834 3888.

Using hydraulics

MODERN production machine tools make wide use of hydraulic equipment for many important applications. But the Machine Tool Industry Research Association points out, for hydraulics to be a success, co-operation between the machine tool builder and the makers of the hydraulics units is essential at all stages.

To underline this point, MIRA is to repeat a seminar in co-operation with AHEM, the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers. The new event is for October 31 and will take place at MIRA's Macclesfield headquarters. Further from MIRA, Hully Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, 0625 25431.

ELECTRONICS

Power supply centres

THOSE MANUFACTURING such equipment as visual display terminals, data printers, copiers and microprocessor based systems can obtain from Weir Electronics tailored switched mode power supply units, with particular cost effectiveness in production runs of more than 1,000.

The design is at its best for applications to multi-output supplies delivering up to 150 watts of total power and the company is able to offer considerable flexibility in the number of output rails and in their voltage and combining ratings. For example, combinations of output voltages such as +5, +12, -12, -5 and +24 volts are easily achieved with current ratings of several amperes per channel, provided that the total power is less than 150 watts.

MATERIALS

Warm use for waste newsprint

TRADITIONAL free bed-floen for tramps has been layers of newspapers and choice of this material makes good sense to Diversified Insulation Company, 4 Telford Square, Inxton Industrial Estate, Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland, which buys in graded waste paper—mostly borate treated—with dry

already available and proved to be most effective when applied to finely shredded paper—an added benefit was that the chemical also made the material repellent to vermin. Resultant product looked like a grey, loose-textured cotton wool, not unlike the stuffings in a jiffy bag.

Responsible manufacturers kept to the borate formulations which are successfully used today and, anxious to safeguard their business reputations, they formed the Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers' Association (CIMA), pressing federal agencies to draw up with them clearly defined manufacturing standards and requirements. Borate treated fibre came to

Britain in 1978 and Diversified Insulation (a UK company backed by the Scottish Development Agency) makes Shelter Shield under licence from America. Its product, has already been used to insulate 30,000 local authority homes in Scotland.

The company believes that cellulose fibre insulation will, over the coming years, make a valuable, cheap and efficient contribution to the nation's energy conservation programme. Friends of the Earth should also be reassured—the product proves to be an ideal solution to recycling a material which would otherwise be burned or buried.

BETTER FLY FISHING

Better fly fishing

A PLATED pure silk fly line has just been shown at the Bowdoin Game Fair by Anglo American Fly Fishing Sports, 8 Wardour Lodge, Rise Road, Sandringdale, Berkshire (0990 20549).

Available in sizes AFTM 4 to 9, the new "Heron" line is said to be extremely supple, giving close loops, perfect turnover and light landing. Secret advantage of the line is said to be in a new dressing which makes it float high on top of the water, instead of in the film. Pick up is therefore effortless, striking on a long line is swift and positive, and roll casting becomes easy.

As the dressing is completely stable the line requires no special maintenance and can be left on the reels, never becoming tacky.

SEMINARS

Finishing without oil

PAINT manufacturer Sonneborn and Kleck, Jaxa Works, Peregrine Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex (01-500 0251), is to hold a one-day seminar on "Finishing Without Oil" on September 12 close to the factory at the Bald Hind Hotel, Chigwell.

PROCESSING

Light sorts limestone

FIRST PHOTOMETRIC sorter to be installed in Finland and the first for a limestone application worldwide, a Model 16 by Ore Sorters (Canada) is being installed for Parak, the largest vertically integrated building materials company in Finland. It has also signed an option for the purchase of two additional machines.

Model 16 is a high-throughput random stream machine, capable of handling up to 180 tonnes per hour in a wide variety of minerals and other materials. Sorting accuracy depends upon several factors, including light reflectance levels between the "accept" and "reject" material, the rock size range and the feed rate. Plant availability is high with only minimal routine maintenance required. The size of materials which can be handled ranges between 10 mm and 180 mm.

A number of Model 16 photometric sorters have been installed worldwide for coarse beneficiation of gold, silver, tungsten and other minerals. Ore sorters is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation. Further details from the latter at 6, St. James' Square, London, SW17 4LD, Tel. (01) 930 2399.

DATA PROCESSING

Compatibles may link

OLIVETTI, THE major international office equipment and data processing supplier, has concluded two agreements with Memorex, plus-compatible peripheral manufacturer competing against IBM in the main.

The announcement stresses close co-operation between the two companies at a time when Olivetti has also been holding talks with another major IBM plus-compatible manufacturer, Amdahl. Furthermore a possible alliance is also being discussed by Amdahl and Memorex, thus presenting the possibility of a powerful IBM alternative line-up.

The agreement between Olivetti and Memorex represents a fundamental opportunity for the exchange of technical knowledge, but was expressed in concrete terms initially in April by the signing of an OEM contract. This stated that Olivetti would assemble and sell the Memorex 1377 video terminal in Italy.

Amdahl in at Leeds

EXISTING ICL equipment which constitutes the main source of computing power available to Leeds University's computer users is to be replaced by an Amdahl V6. University plans are to install a campus network based on X-25. The new Amdahl will be joined by a number of smaller satellite machines to be used primarily for interactive computing, linked on a communications network. The general purpose data transmission network will allow any terminal device to access any computer in the system. The Computer Board for Universities and Research Councils has already agreed to provide the first satellite which may be installed before the end of the year. The Board has also agreed

COMPONENTS

Miniature keyboards on offer

ALPHANUMERIC keyboards measuring only 152 x 63mm made by Apex Microsystems and intended for use in field and portable electronic equipment can now be obtained from Walmore Electronics, 11 Betterton Street, London WC2R 9BS (01-836 1228).

Known as the MKB.01 the keyboard has an ASCII character set and is supplied in ASR33 format, although alternative codes and layouts are easily implemented. Keyboard marketing is part of an expansion being undertaken by Walmore's displays division in display-related products and the units will complement the gas discharge, liquid crystal and cathode ray tube products already handled.

Gets at the memory

THE GROWING number of microcomputer designers will be interested in a single package 40 pin device from Intel which will allow micro systems using the company's 8085A and 8088 processors to interface directly to hard discs, fibre optics and other high speed peripheral devices.

This direct memory access (DMA) controller, in two versions working at 3 MHz and 5 MHz, will reduce the time taken for DMA transfers and so reduce the idle time of the central processor during DMA, allowing it to be more efficiently utilised.

Among the facilities offered are block transfer within memory independently of the system microprocessor (particularly useful in word processor applications) and cascade operation to provide more channels. Intel is at 4 Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 3NB (0865 711431).

Control of pollution

BECAUSE OF the nature of domestic sewage it is inevitable that offensive odours will arise during its passage through the sewers and during its treatment at the sewage works, and it is becoming more and more usual to take steps to avoid smells in the vicinity of sewage works, particularly when people live nearby.

Treatment of odours from sewage works, by use of ozone, is discussed in a leaflet about its OdOtr001 unit, available from Wallace and Tiernan, Priory Works, Tonbridge, Kent (0732 364491).

Annual Conference of the Institute of Water Pollution Control will be held this year at the Palace Hotel, Torquay, September 11-13, and registration details are available from the General Secretary, 53, London Road, Maidstone, Kent (0622 62034).

PRESS Engineering contractors to the oil, gas, chemical, process and power generation industries. PRESS William Press Group, TEL: 01-353 6544.

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How to survive the recession

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE PROPHETS of gloom and doom are banking a time at present. Whichever half-dozen bankers, economists and politicians are gathered together all they can talk about is the coming recession, the tight profits and liquidity squeeze, the consequent inevitable bankruptcies and the unstoppable decay of manufacturing industry—and all by 1984. Far be it from me to spoil the fun (or rather the self-imposed gloom) but the next 18 months may not be quite as horrific as these warnings imply.

For a start, there are few signs yet of a recession in the UK, in spite of all the fears about the future expressed in last week's CBI quarterly survey. Business activity is quite strong at present; orders and deliveries have picked up sharply since the winter and capacity utilisation is at its highest level for over five years.

Under-estimate

For instance, the London Business School has projected a rise in consumer spending in real terms of 2 per cent next year and of 2.7 per cent in 1981. This could be an under-estimate since the Business School assumes that savings will rise in response to faster inflation. But it is possible that the current acceleration of prices is not so much of a shock as the 1974-1975 surge since people have become more accustomed to inflation. If savings turn out to be lower than generally assumed, demand will be higher and the recession could be less severe.

Even the pessimists agree that consumer spending should continue to rise—following an increase of more than 8 per cent in the past two years. All this can be regarded as merely frittering away the benefits of North Sea oil while the rest of industry declines.

Nasty squeeze

Treasury Ministers understandably stress the dangers if the opportunity is not used to improve the UK's underlying performance and gloomy projections have their uses in persuading spending departments of the need for restraint. But the gloom should not be overdone. The Government's medicine is certainly harsh and it may be very unpleasant for some, notably many manufacturing companies and those made unemployed. But most of us may hardly feel the squeeze, at least until the mid-1980s.

Glory without power

BY BRIAN GROOM



THE CITY of Lichfield, in Staffordshire, is proud of its long, predominantly ecclesiastical history and of its celebrated three-spired cathedral, "the mother of the Midlands". No one would dispute the grandeur of either.

What is in dispute is the status of modern Lichfield, which, since 1974, has had no local council of its own—an embarrassment and an annoyance to a 25,000-strong city community which dates back to 1543 and county status to 1553.

Lichfield District Council, into which many of the powers of the old city council were subsumed in the reorganisation of local government, has to cater for a much wider area, of 88,000 inhabitants. In all fairness, however, it has not been neglectful of the most critical problem facing the city: how to preserve its ancient character while creating work for its people.

Lichfield needs, like the giant West Midlands conurbation to which it is perilously close, to attract industry. The area's unemployment rate is 9.8 per cent, compared with Birmingham's 6.7 per cent and Wolverhampton's 6.4 per cent.

The city is close to the northern limit of the green belt which surrounds the conurbation, and which is an essential

notably engineering and construction.

"The green belt does not inhibit economic development," says Mr. Farrow. A new 42-acre industrial estate is being built by a private consortium, and among the applicants for a place on it is a large multinational seeking room for an office development.

Lichfield's success has been achieved mostly with small companies, but the larger combines have not been totally absent. Royal Ordnance's control equipment company is part of IML, while Bond Brook, a metal components manufacturer on the nearby Treat Valley road, belongs to GKN.

Lichfield enjoys several advantages. The migration of a number of people from the Black Country to the cathedral city has led to a high incidence of skilled labour.

Further, it is on the main London to Manchester railway line and is, by road, only 20 minutes from Birmingham's spaghetti junction.

Lichfield also has the safety valve of proximity to Birmingham and Wolverhampton. It is able to accommodate a number of inhabitants for whom it does not need to provide jobs.

Mr. Farrow, enabled it to achieve a better balance than many green belt communities.



Lichfield: preserving the old yet managing to keep abreast of the times

The city is not ungrateful for this, but is unhappy because, while achieving distinction in industrial development, it has suffered the indignity of losing what administrative autonomy it previously had. Lichfield has always been able to take a joke known as the "city of the three Ps"—pubs, parsons and prostitutes—from the days when it was the original home of the Staffordshire Regiment. But many feel that the political situation is beyond a joke.

The old city council had wide-ranging powers. Now the charter trustees, the 15 councillors from the city who sit on the 56-member district council—have no power to levy a rate, to employ staff directly, or to own property. The city's lovely old Guildhall belongs to the district.

Mr. Bob Blewitt, a Lichfield

district councillor, is chairman of the Association of Charter Trustees, a body representing many towns which were not only deprived of their old councils in 1974, but were denied the successor parishes granted to surrounding village communities. He is deeply unhappy about the fate of Lichfield. "We have rates levied directly, in addition to the district rate, for duties supposedly carried out within this city. We should have our own elected council to take charge of it rather than have it disappear into the coffers of the district," he says.

Consultation on planning matters, which the surrounding parish councils have as a right, is granted to Lichfield only as a concession.

But Lichfield, along with other charter trustee towns, is launching an attempt to salvage some of its pride. The guide-

lines of the 1974 local government reorganisation prevented many towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants, or which made up more than one-fifth the population of their districts from being given a success parish or town council.

The Boundary Commission's parish review, that restricts has been altered and Lichfield and many other towns are aping for their own councils.

But even if they are successful, things would never be the same. Parish council powers far from mighty for a place which, between 788 and the seat of an archbishop stretching from the Thames the flumber, and which has been the seat of a bishopric, aping from a period shortly after 1 Norman Conquest, since 6 One wonders what Dr. John Lichfield's most famous would have made of it.

Wragg challenge at two meetings

VETERAN trainer Harry Wragg is seldom represented at two meetings in a day, and it could be worth noting that Pat Eddery rides for him at Newmarket this afternoon and again at Lingfield in the evening.

Annabella, who runs in Newmarket's opening juvenile event, the Isleham Maiden

RACING

Stakes, has made just one appearance to date. Three weeks ago at Newbury the chestnut filly by Heston out of the brilliantly speedy Sovereign could make no impression in the Chatter Hill Maiden Stakes.

Her backward appearance was reflected in the market, her odds drifted from an opening shop of 3-1 to 7-1 and she is well thought of, and will strip far fitter here.

A half-sister to the Irish

Sweeps Derby runner-up, Lucky Sovereign, and that smart performer, Flashy, Annabella would fill figure in the finish

brother by Prince Tenderfoot to X-Data, Prince Diligence ran well on the July course last month, finishing third at six lengths to Durandel in the Chesterfield Stakes.

Whatever their wate with Annabella, Wragg and Eddery look set for a winner of Khaki Kate has probably improved sufficiently since her last race to lift the evening meeting's Candlelight Stakes. Runner-up at four lengths to the extremely useful Rowlandson in York's one-and-a-half-mile Fountains Maiden Stakes on July 14, Khaki Kate will appreciate the easier underfoot conditions than she faced on the Knavesmire.

Half-an-hour after the Candlelight Stakes Rankin looks sure to land the Nightwatch Stakes. Guy Harwood's roan son of Owen Dudley is another improving sort, and seems to have scared away most of the opposition.

without, perhaps, being good enough to cope with Prince Diligence. An attractive half-

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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TV/Radio

News for England (except London), 4.15 Play School, 4.40 Picnic and Dixie, 4.45 Asterix the Gaul, 5.10 We're Going Places, 5.35 The Wombles, 5.40 News (London and South-East only), 5.55 Nationwide, 6.20 The Golden Fiddle Awards, 6.50 Star Trek, 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot Mum, 8.10 Des O'Connor Tonight, 9.00 News, 9.25 The Hollywood Greats, 10.15 Spike Milligan in 07

(London and South-East only), 10.45 Regional, National News, 11.50 The Late Late Show, "Duck Soup", starring the Marx Brothers. All Regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:— Scotland—5.55-6.20 pm Reporting Scotland, 10.15 Beechgrove Garden, 10.45-10.50 Regional, National News, 11.50-11.55 pm Bys a Wales, 5.55-6.20 Wales Today, 6.50 Ask the Family, 7.15-8.10 The Wonderful World of Disney, 10.15 Eisteddfod '79, 10.45-10.50 Regional, National News, Northern Ireland—4.13-4.15 pm Northern Ireland News, 5.53-6.20 Seene Around Six, 10.15 Lifetime, 10.45-10.50 Regional, National News, England—5.55-6.20 pm Look East (Norwich), Look North (Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle), Midlands Today (Birmingham), Points West (Bristol): South Today (Southampton), 10.15-10.45 East (Norwich) Variations; Midlands (Birmingham) This is Reporting Today; North (Leeds) In Conversation; North-East (Newcastle) Disappearing Coast; North West (Manchester) Champio Brass; South (Southampton) Penderosa Country; South West (Plymouth) Steam into Summer; West (Bristol) The Producers.

1.30 Divorce and After, 2.00 Film, "The Day After Tomorrow", 2.30 The Serpent, 4.50 Paul, 5.15 The Brady Bunch, 5.45 News, 6.00 Thames News, 6.05 The Wild, Wild World of Animals, 6.30 Get Some In!, 7.00 The Krypton Factor, 7.30 About Animals, 8.00 Chips, 8.00 Hawaii Five-O, 9.00 Heartland, 10.00 News, IBA programmes are subject to interruption because of industrial action

10.30 am Allright Now, 11.00 Beginners Please, 11.25 The Paper Lads, 11.50 The Whoops, 1.20 pm Report Headlines, 1.25 Report Wales Headlines, 2.00 Afternoon Film, 5.15 News, 5.30 Report, 6.16 Report of the Week, 6.30 The Now, 7.00 Cymru/Wales, as HTV General Service except 10.30-12.00 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 1979, 12.01-12.28 pm News, 1.25-1.50 pm News, 2.00-2.30 pm News, 2.30-3.00 pm News, 3.00-3.30 pm News, 3.30-4.00 pm News, 4.00-4.30 pm News, 4.30-5.00 pm News, 5.00-5.30 pm News, 5.30-6.00 pm News, 6.00-6.30 pm News, 6.30-7.00 pm News, 7.00-7.30 pm News, 7.30-8.00 pm News, 8.00-8.30 pm News, 8.30-9.00 pm News, 9.00-9.30 pm News, 9.30-10.00 pm News, 10.00-10.30 pm News, 10.30-11.00 pm News, 11.00-11.30 pm News, 11.30-12.00 pm News, 12.00-12.30 pm News, 12.30-1.00 am News, 1.00-1.30 am News, 1.30-2.00 am News, 2.00-2.30 am News, 2.30-3.00 am News, 3.00-3.30 am News, 3.30-4.00 am News, 4.00-4.30 am News, 4.30-5.00 am News, 5.00-5.30 am News, 5.30-6.00 am News, 6.00-6.30 am News, 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THE ARTS

Covent Garden

La Fille mal gardée

by CLEMENT CRISP

A good ballet brings rewards to dancers as well as to audiences...

With Peter Schaufuss the role of Alain acquires a novel but entirely valid quality...

Leading the performance, Jean Kain and Frank Augustyn brought endearing joy and sweetness of feeling...

The company reading is sound; it lacks something in subtlety—and the performance was one in which, if a property could misbehave...



Jain Mitchell and Michael Carter

Leonard Burt

ICA Theatre

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

by MICHAEL COVENEY

The full title of Andy Smith's antisingly meaningless musical is The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde...

The other actor, Michael Carter, like Mr. Mitchell, is competent but curiously lacking in personality...

The gift of Professor and Mrs. J. Hull Grundy consists of over 500 items, all but six of which are Japanese...

Hull Grundy gift on display

The British Museum has announced that the Hull Grundy gift of Japanese miniature decorative arts is now on permanent display...

The gift of Professor and Mrs. J. Hull Grundy consists of over 500 items, all but six of which are Japanese...

Elizabeth Hall

Mozart by DAVID MURRAY

Nothing went better in Wednesday's South Bank Summer Music than Mozart's little Masonic Funeral Music...

None of which is to say that Pommier's reading was ever less than amiable and civilised...

Cinema

A touch of clairvoyance

by NIGEL ANDREWS

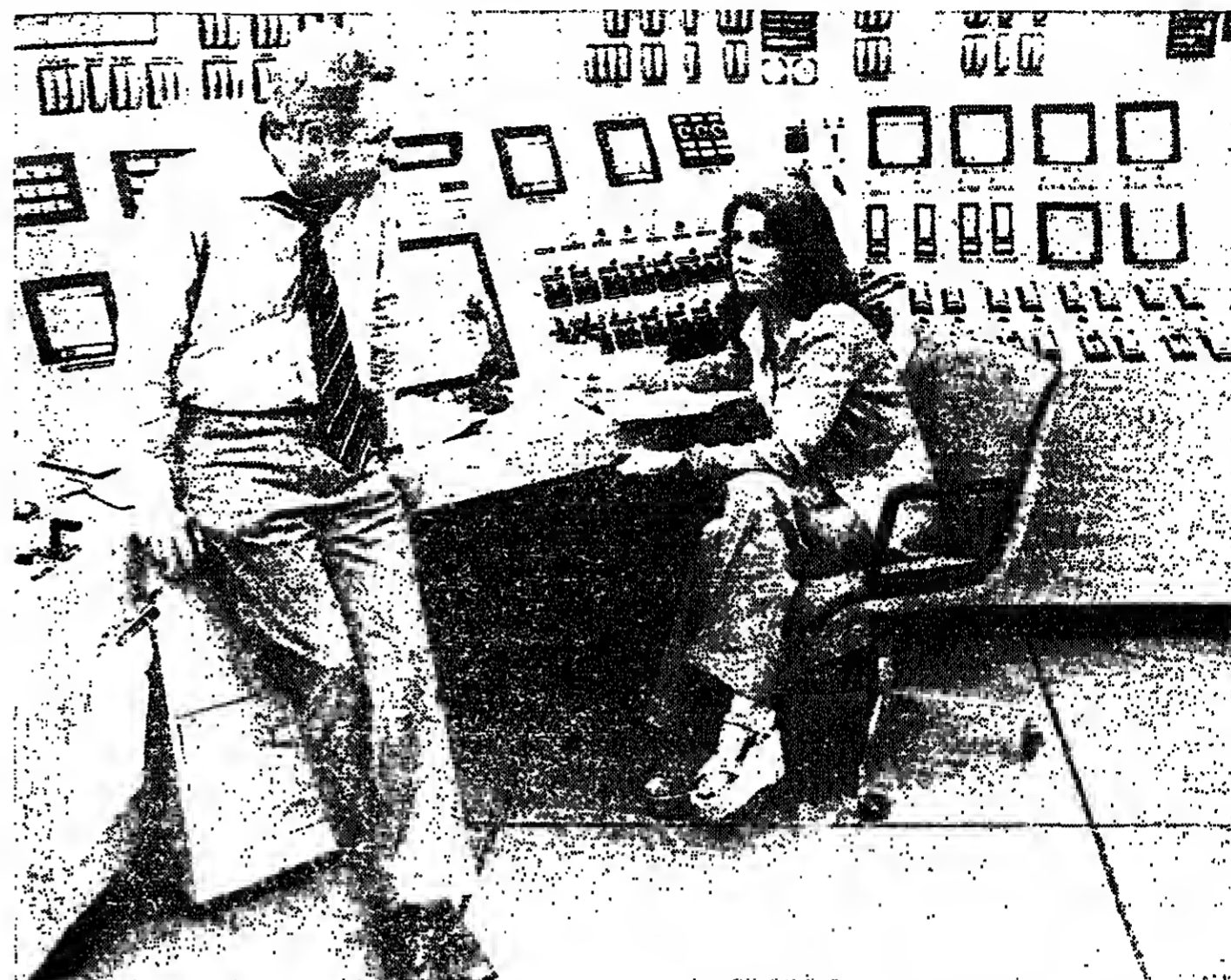
The China Syndrome (A), Leicester Square Theatre Edinburgh Film Festival Rankin Movie, ICA Paul Rotha, National Film Theatre

There is nothing like a dose of up-to-the-minute newswortiness to rejuvenate a dying movie genre...

lethal dose of radiation into the air. How Fonda and Douglas prize a confirmation of the truth from the at-first-guarded Lemmoor...

The story premise is simple but effective. Fonda and Douglas are filming a Roving Report on nuclear power at a California plant...

The 33rd Edinburgh Film Festival is about to open, with as promising a line of new movies as it has boasted in recent memory...



Jack Lemmon and Jane Fonda in 'The China Syndrome'

hearingly strong. Ridley Scott's Sci-Fi thriller Alien, British Isles seems to be the theme...

The ICA is currently presenting a season called 'Britannia Waves The Rules: Empire And Resistance'...

religius tensios within the film a choppy, fragmented look that is obviously supposed to say Hoorary-is-Cinema-Verité...

Paul Rotha, that eminence grise of British documentarists, is occupying the screen on the other side of the Thames...

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Zimmermann Oboe Concerto

by MAX LOPPERT

Bernad Alois Zimmermann's Oboe Concerto dates from 1952; in style it seems to stand apart from the later and more celebrated Zimmermann compositions...

the heightened emotional colouring was the particular contribution of the soloist. Hard to imagine a more poetic player of Zimmermann; Holliger's tone, so peculiarly his own in its blends of bite, plangency, and dramatic vigour...

Venturing a possibly rash generalisation after my own introduction to the work in Wednesday's Prom performance (Hainz Holliger and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Michael Gielen)...

There is something very attractive about the crispness of the first movement, serene in style, its Stravinskian neoclassicism translated into a more complicated harmonic idiom...

EMI launches Harveys series

EMI Records (UK) has signed a contract with Harveys of Bristol to sponsor recordings under the title 'Harveys of Bristol English Series'...

It is conceivable, though, that

BRAZIL The outlook for the 1980's

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Friday August 10 1979

Three years of M. Barre

IN THE late summer of 1976 M. Raymond Barre, newly installed as French Prime Minister, gave himself three years to knock the country's economy into shape. Now that those three years are nearly up, M. Barre's mission is still far from complete. Inflation is at worrying levels, the trade balance is moving into deficit and the Government is making every attempt to batten down the hatches as the waves generated by the latest round of oil price increases threaten to sweep over the decks.

Oil price

It would be wrong to conclude that M. Barre has failed. He cannot be blamed for not anticipating the oil price increases that have thrown out some of his original calculations. And in comparison with a number of other countries, France has so far not fared too badly. The franc has held up well in the European Monetary System and, heretofore, surprisingly, outperformed the dollar. Until recently the balance of payments has looked healthy, and in January this year industrial production reached the highest level since before the 1974 recession.

But since then the outlook has deteriorated. After a series of downward revisions in expectations, economic growth this year is now not thought likely to be more than three per cent at best. The increasingly dismal outlook for the second half of the year was a major factor behind this week's decision to stimulate the housing and public works sectors. At the same time, the Government is continuing to urge industry to step up its investments to prepare for the harsh competitive climate of the 1980s. Investment has remained slack despite two packages designed to boost so far this year—largely because of the generally depressed international economic outlook. The recent rapid rise in interest rates will not help to reverse the trend.

Protecting franc

The rise in interest rates has come about at least partly in order to protect the franc as the review of the working of the European Monetary System this autumn comes closer. If the franc has done reasonably

After the executions

The widening ripples from Iraq's troubled waters

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

LAST MONTH'S discovery of a high level conspiracy in Iraq followed by 21 executions on Wednesday, raises the spectre of instability in the world's third largest oil exporter. It also dealt a hard blow to the common front of conservative and radical Arab states opposing President Sadat's peace agreement with Israel. In many ways it is the most important internal political change in the Middle East since the Iranian revolution.

Up to the beginning of this year the economic and potential political power of Iraq was seldom recognised in the West. Since the fall of the monarchy in 1958, successive rulers in Baghdad have been largely absorbed by the complex and sanguinary business of staying in power.

Yet Iraq, with a population of 12m, is the most heavily populated Arab state east of Egypt, and it is unique in the region in combining a relatively large population with very substantial oil revenues.

The size of Iraq's military forces emphasises the point. At the end of last year it had 212,000 men under arms, heavily equipped by the Soviet Union. This compares with a mere 58,500 men in the Saudi Arabian army. Had Baghdad's detente with Syria solidified into close military co-operation the two countries would together be fielding combined armies of almost half a million men and over 4,000 tanks. The military influence of Baghdad is all the more potent given the partial disintegration of the Iranian army. This makes the Iraqis the most powerful military force in the Gulf. Inevitably Saudi Arabia can see some advantages in co-operation with its northern neighbour against whatever threat emerges in Iran, particularly since the departure of the Shah into exile created doubts in Riyadh about the value of American guarantees.

Growing oil revenues

This military strength is backed by growing oil revenues. This year they should total over \$15bn. Before the oil shortage sparked off by the Iranian revolution, Iraqi production was running at 2.6m barrels a day. Since then it has increased to 3.3m m/d, and possibly higher. Capacity is about 4m barrels a day. Reserves are more difficult to assess. Prolonged disputes with the western oil consortium, the Iraq Petroleum Company, (nationalised in 1972) during the 1960s limited exploration but the Iraqi Oil Ministry has claimed that they total a potential 95bn barrels. This makes them the highest in the region after Saudi Arabia.



Saddam Hussein—effective ruler of Iraq since the early 1970s but now under pressure since last month's attempted coup and this week's executions.



the minority Alawi sect) is in part an attempt to mask the deep sectarian divisions in both countries.

In the past Saddam Hussein, an extremely skilful politician, has been able to hold a tight grip on the party by successive purges. His normal technique is to isolate his enemies, be they Kurds, Shia or Communists, and then to crush them. There are now signs that these forces are combining against him. They are encouraged by the revolutionary climate in the area following the fall of the Shah. But the key to their success will be gaining support within the ruling party and the army. This is the reason for the Government's savage reaction against last month's conspiracy.

Comparisons misleading

The sudden collapse of the Shah's apparently monolithic regime last year has led to almost any sign of disaffection in the Middle East being seen as a precursor to revolution. No diplomat or journalist wishes to be caught twice on the job, hence misleading comparisons between Saudi Arabia and Iran. But it is in Iraq, with its large Shia population, and tradition of violent political change, that the influence of Khomeini's success is likely to be greatest. This threat to the stability of the Baathist government should not be exaggerated. But its position is now weaker than at any time over the past five years.

If it does come under attack there must be some doubts about the position of Iraq as a stable alternative to Iran as a source of oil supplies. Such a development would be particularly worrying to countries like France, Italy and Brazil which have looked to Iraq as a major source of crude imports.

It also puts some question marks over the future of Iraq as a long-term market for exporters. Difficult though it is to do business in Baghdad, many exporters see it as second only to Saudi Arabia in long-term potential. Unlike the thinly populated city states of the Gulf, it has an ever-growing capacity to absorb investment. Unlike Iran, the government has so far generally avoided large prestige projects likely to be axed by any succeeding regime.

The country is still a long way from revolution, and Saddam Hussein is certain to liquidate any sign of dissent. Before Iran this might have been enough. But the attempted coup shows that ruling party and the army are not themselves united. The monolithic image created by the government during the past five years has been broken.

year Iraq provided strong diplomatic backing and a \$300m loan.

Friendly noises were also made towards West European countries. A year-long trade boycott of Britain was ended when Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, visited Baghdad in early July. Recognising the new position of Iraq as a crucial linchpin of Middle East politics, a succession of European foreign ministers trooped through Baghdad airport. France, which had always invested diplomatic time and effort in the country, reached an agreement to take 30m tons of Iraqi crude in 1980. After the fall of the Shah the country began to look like an island of stability.

Failing health

Ironically, so the government now claims, many of the leaders who greeted the visiting foreign dignitaries were already plotting its overthrow. On July 12 the Secretary General of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) was stripped of all posts. Three days later President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr resigned and was succeeded by Saddam Hussein. The latter, though nominally only vice-chairman of the RCC, has been the effective ruler of Iraq since the early 1970s. Two weeks after his takeover as President five leading members of the government and at least 250 party members and officers were arrested or executed. President al-Bakr's resignation had become inevitable due to his failing health, but may have been accelerated by the need to deal decisively with the plotters.

In spite of much speculation the exact form of the conspiracy remains unclear. The Baath party has always been

obsessively secretive. Within a week diplomats were offering observers a choice between five different conspiracy theories. The only one which attracted little support was Baghdad's own explanation that Israel and the U.S. were behind the plot.

The motives of the five members of the Revolution Command Council who opposed Saddam Hussein were threefold: opposition to the dominance of his family in top ranks of the Iraqi government, desire for unity with Syria and opposition to the vigorous suppression of dissidents from Iraq's majority Shia sect.

When President Assad of Syria visited Baghdad in June to discuss uniting government and party in both countries he was faced with unacceptable conditions by Saddam Hussein. This angered the latter's colleagues who took the Baath's declared pan-Arab philosophy more seriously. They are particularly strong in the army and they seem to have been supported by former President Bakr. Inevitably the failure of the unity talks weakened the alliance between the two countries.

The attempted coup may well destroy it. Baghdad's thinking is that if Syria was not actively involved in the conspiracy, the conspirators wanted closer unity with Damascus. Since the common Arab front against Egypt was largely based on the Syrian-Iraqi axis, this now looks extremely fragile. Saudi Arabia and the conservative Arab states will not modify their deeply felt hostility to the Israeli-Egyptian treaty overnight, but in the long term they may well modify their intransigence.

Initial assumptions that the coup was directly linked to the revolution in Iran are not wholly convincing. Of the senior party officials arrested only the secretary general of

Animosity factor

A more convincing explanation of the coup bid is animosity against the family of Saddam Hussein. Since the coup of 1968, which brought the Baath to power, control has been concentrated in the hands of leaders from Tikrit, a town north of Baghdad. This is reinforced by family links: Saddam Hussein and Bakr are cousins. Saddam's brother, Barzan is believed to have been promoted head of intelligence in July, while his first cousin has so far generally avoided large prestige projects likely to be axed by any succeeding regime.

The country is still a long way from revolution, and Saddam Hussein is certain to liquidate any sign of dissent. Before Iran this might have been enough. But the attempted coup shows that ruling party and the army are not themselves united. The monolithic image created by the government during the past five years has been broken.

Off the rails yet again

THE HALF-YEAR figures for British Rail are not on the face of it too frightening. A loss of £10m on 24 weeks of operations represents only about 1 per cent of turnover, so that it might seem that quite a marginal price adjustment would restore viability. The fact is that British Rail is talking in terms of a fare increase of 20 per cent, because it well knows that the figures are a great deal worse than they look. From the railway point of view, new fares must provide for still sharply rising costs, and for the service of desperately needed new capital for re-equipment.

Futile

From the national point of view the figures are, of course, much worse again. Unfortunately the UK habit of mixing revenue subsidies and capital write-offs makes it very hard to estimate just how much the service is costing us. All the same, the fact that governments of every colour think it worthwhile to support rail services—and there is now talk of an EEC subsidy—suggests that it is futile to suppose that railway problems can ever be solved by applying a simple commercial rule-of-thumb.

So far as the most expensive services are concerned—the commuter services with their intense peak problems—there is no realistic alternative to railways. Our major cities grew up around railway networks which were profitable in a period of low interest rates and large income differentials between the average passenger and the average railway workers. Social change and inflation have turned profits to losses, but the physical necessity remains, rural services fill a social need. The only questions are how far the commuters themselves should pay for this service (and perhaps whether they should pay out of taxed income), and how far the remaining burden should fall on national finances, local finances, or on more profitable rail services.

When it comes to railway investment, other questions arise. Railways are generally energy-efficient when fully loaded; railway equipment has a long working life (the rolling stock

now needing replacement is 20 to 25 years old) so that inflation and high interest rates throw a disproportionate burden on present rather than future operations.

All this suggests that the present Government, like its predecessors, must be prepared to commit a basic sum to railway support before it can ask the operating Board to show a "surplus"—the block-grant approach which has proved the best compromise between subsidy and efficiency.

A distinction

It might then be argued that the Board should be allowed the fullest commercial freedom; but there is another distinction to be drawn. It is reasonable that the Government should seek to control investment in the loss-making services, which may actually lead to larger losses. What is not reasonable is that Whitehall should rob the system of normal commercial freedom in financing growth in its profitable services. For example, the freight service is actually short of some 200 locomotives, and hampered by worn-out rolling stock. Yet British Rail has been forbidden to lease the necessary equipment, as other enterprises might, though large funds are available for this purpose, and permission would be needed even for investment financed by users' pools.

Duties to face

However, if the Board is to claim greater commercial freedom, as it should, it also has certain duties to face. It can hardly claim this freedom as long as it does not allow the private sector access to its own equipment orders; the monopoly of British Rail Engineering is inappropriate, and almost certainly costly. It cannot expect users to provide equipment unless it can be operated to full capacity at week-ends. For example, in short, British Rail cannot operate commercially, even after subsidy, unless its labour force is prepared to work commercially, facing competition, providing service when users want it, and contributing to efficiency. This remains the toughest problem for the Board.

MEN AND MATTERS

GEC's year of the salesman

Somewhere in the ranks of the General Electric Company (GEC) lurks a happy man who made more from the company over the past financial year than his chairman and his managing director put together.

Reading the company's annual report, published yesterday, with my customary keen interest, I saw the column "employees' emoluments exceeding £10,000." There are some 575 of them (from a workforce of 184,000), and they range between £10,000 and £37,500. Then in solitary splendour, comes a figure in the £102,300-£205,000 range. By comparison, the chairman, Lord Nelson of Stafford, gets a mere £33,000 for his pains, while the highest paid director—can it be other than Sir Arnold Weinstock?—receives £90,000. So I asked the country's biggest private employer who this well-paid individual is.

GEC would give no name. A spokesman would only say that it was a senior salesman in the company's computer division—one which has done well in recent years. It seems this man has been selling GEC computers at a furious rate for the past two years, but that payments on the computers have been made in the past financial year, bringing him his bonuses in a lump. "This is a freakish occurrence," said the spokesman. "We don't expect it to happen again."

Name dropper

The most ambitious accounting merger ever attempted already seems to be finding its difficulties, even though the agreement to form the new group was announced only two weeks ago. The proposed new firm will be the first of the international giants not to have an exclusively Anglo-Saxon base. Among the European founder-members are



"They're lost without TV commercials"

the biggest firms in France, Denmark and the Netherlands and the No. 2 in West Germany. The UK firm is Thomson McLintock and other members come from the U.S., Switzerland, Canada and Australia.

Unfortunately the group finds itself unable to agree on a name. Adoption of one of the existing titles has been ruled out, since this would imply that one firm was taking over the others. However, since the announcement was made, the main decision taken by the founding firms has been to reject a proposed neutral title. This lack of agreement bodes ill, say accountants happily, for the future of the merger.

be able to handle two-figure arithmetic. One cannot always take such matters for granted. The recruiting brochure from the accounting firm Edward Moore and Sons says that it now numbers 33 partners, with 16 based in the City. The "remaining 18," it adds, are elsewhere.

Oliver's recruits

The Dartington Trust, famous for its connection with progressive education, is opening a business school in North Devon to teach middle-aged executives how to start up on their own. The first nine-week course begins in October, and the Manpower Services Commission plans to put 12 applicants through it at a cost of £11,500. It has just started advertising the places in the West Country Press.

The Trust has put £300,000 towards the project, which will include a local merchant bank and mutual insurance company. The bank aims to channel money from institutional investors towards promising schemes devised by the students.

Heading the enterprise is Oliver Stutchbury, former managing director of the Save and Prosper Group. Stutchbury led the "Abolish the GLC" party in the 1977 local elections, arguing as a former Labour Alderman that the GLC did nothing that could not be done by the London Boroughs' Association at a fraction of the cost.

In Chelsea he received 800 votes, but the other 31 candidates polled less well, leaving the party with an unimpressive 0.66 per cent share of the overall London vote. After that his enthusiasm for politics waned. Stutchbury told me yesterday he had firm views on teaching business management. Two weeks of the course will be devoted to lectures from successful businessmen, with time available for rigorous

cross-examination of the problems new projects were likely to face.

Handlebar hero

A call for help has arrived from Carl A. Minor, a retired banker in Missouri. Later this month, Minor will be coming to Britain to search for clues about an ancestor named Thomas Stevens, who won passing fame in the 1880s by riding around the world on a penny-farthing bicycle.

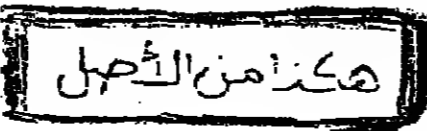
At this time of renewed faith in pedal power, Stevens should be a cult hero. But little is now known about him. "I shall be going to Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, the birthplace of Stevens as well as my maternal grandmother," writes Minor. But he has been completely unable to discover what happened in later life in Stevens, who was a reporter for the New York World at the time of his youthful feat.

In the library of the Royal Geographical Society I found Stevens's two-volume Around the World on a Bicycle, describing his 13,500 miles of bone-shaking across America, Europe and Asia. He seems to have had an many hair-breadth escapes from wild beasts and bandits that he simply may have settled down afterwards to placid obscurity.

Hard headed

A recruitment party conducted by a Bristol company last month was a great success, according to its staff magazine. "It ran from 8 pm until midnight, and during that time two cases of gin and three of whisky were consumed. As a result 11 men have applied to join the company, the first applicant arriving on the morning after the party." I hope he held his job as well as his liquor.

Observer



Putting the squeeze on foreign students

By MICHAEL DIXON, Education Correspondent

TO ANY Government anxious to curb public expenditure, the £100m spent annually on subsidising overseas students must appear eminently suitable for sacrifice. No precedent has been set by the Conservatives' proposal to phase out the 60 per cent subsidy by charging the full average cost in courses in United Kingdom universities, polytechnics and further education colleges to the bulk of foreign entrants from the autumn of 1980. A similar step was under examination two years ago by the Labour Government, although it eventually renounced control by price in favour of limiting the influx from abroad by the imposition of quotas.

Nor is a precedent set by the Conservatives' decision that this autumn—a year in advance of the proposed gradual removal of the subsidy—there will be a sharp increase in the tuition fees of overseas students already enrolled in the State institutions of post-school education. It was also Labour which broke the tradition of charging only nominal sums.

Raised fees

Worried by the foreign contingent's growth from 31,000 to approaching 80,000 over the decade to 1977-78, the previous Government steeply raised the fees paid by the 55,000 or more not added through the Overseas Development Ministry or educational institutions' hardship funds. The average increase imposed for 1977-78 was 60 per cent. By comparison, the increase this autumn will be 33 per cent.

But, although saving an estimated £6m in the current financial year, the raised fees will still leave three-fifths of the average unit cost of the foreigners' higher or further education to be met by UK

taxpayers. So to phase out the subsidy from September, 1980, would require this autumn's charges to be multiplied by two and a half. This would imply at current prices—less of £3,075 for new postgraduates (now about 22 per cent of the overseas total), £2,350 for undergraduates (44 per cent), and £1,200 for post-degree students (34 per cent).

The charging of "full economic costs" can be supported with strong argument by education ministers required by the Cabinet to cut perhaps £200m this year and £400m next from projected annual education budgets of roughly £5.5bn. Mr. Mark Carleton, Secretary for Education and Science, and his political colleagues will doubtless maintain that the subsidising of overseas students entering from 1980 onwards could be continued only by commensurate reductions in educational provision for British youngsters. Privately ministers are already saying that the subsidy is a remnant of Empire—half of the foreign contingent still come from the Commonwealth and UK dependencies—which the country must recognise that it can no longer afford.

Even so, it is certain that when the summer holiday is over the various educational interest groups will react to the full-cost proposal by increasing the concerted opposition which they mounted against the previous measures to contain the influx from abroad, whether by price or by quota.

Any reduction of the subsidy born of Imperialism is automatically condemned on grounds of racial discrimination by the anti-Imperialist National Union of Students. This body is committed to the belief that public spending of any amount can be funded, if not from taxes, then certainly from the overflowing pockets of capitalists. The opposition from adult educational interests is usually less ideological. The supporting arguments, however, are not always in accord with the observable evidence.

Claims that the subsidy is no more than a due from a still relatively wealthy nation in the aspiring youth of poorer countries, is at odds with the hitherto unpublished figures in the accompanying table.

Moreover, of the students who come from countries which are poor, many belong to their nation's richer families.

Even if Labour had won the General Election, steps would have been taken to end the injustice whereby large numbers of British taxpayers are required to finance education for families better off than themselves.

The table chimes somewhat oddly, too, with claims that the subsidy is an investment on the grounds that most of the beneficiaries will return to important positions at home and influence their country in favour of the UK interest. The current attitudes of Iran and Nigeria—

MAIN SOURCES OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN BRITISH STATE POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION

	1977-78		1976-77		% rise (+) or fall (-) over period
	Number of overseas students	% of grand total	Number of overseas students	% of grand total	
Total of top 18	58,904	68.4	56,328	68.0	+ 4.6
Grand total	86,107	100.0	82,974	100.0	+ 3.9
Malaysia*	12,856	14.9	11,958	14.4	+ 7.5
Iran	10,071	11.7	9,202	11.1	+ 9.5
Nigeria*	4,251	4.9	5,574	6.7	-12.1
Hong Kong*	4,585	5.3	4,164	5.0	+10.1
United States	3,424	4.0	3,456	4.2	-0.9
Greece	3,225	3.9	3,281	3.9	-1.3
Sri Lanka*	2,353	2.7	2,656	3.2	-11.4
India	2,163	2.5	1,796	2.2	+14.1
Singapore*	1,718	2.0	1,618	1.9	+ 6.2
Cyprus*	1,601	1.9	1,625	2.0	- 1.5
Turkey	1,585	1.8	1,461	1.8	+ 8.5
Jordan	1,482	1.7	1,147	1.4	+29.2
Zimbabwe-Rhodesia*	1,446	1.7	1,392	1.7	+ 3.9
Kenya*	1,350	1.6	1,698	2.1	-20.1
India*	1,340	1.6	1,742	2.1	-23.1
Canada*	1,127	1.3	1,077	1.3	+ 4.6
Pakistan	1,127	1.3	1,312	1.6	-14.1
Venezuela	1,076	1.2	1,069	1.3	+ 0.7
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* Commonwealth members and UK dependencies.

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consistently two of the largest contributors to the foreign total—suggest that such "favours" could turn out to be expensive.

Another argument for keeping charges low is that, even if the UK gains nothing by encouraging overseas students to come here, it will lose by not doing so. Higher fees would reduce the number of first-class minds from other cultures coming to add a desirable international dimension to British institutions.

The evidence to date, however, is that foreigners generally are eager to come despite the need to pay more. Between 1976-77 and the following year, fees rose on average by 60 per cent. As the table shows, the

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known total of overseas students nevertheless continued the growth of previous years. And of the foreigners who applied, in particular, to enter universities in autumn 1977, only about a quarter were admitted, compared with more than half of the British applicants.

This suggests that, if universities were prepared to admit applicants from abroad as generously as they admit those from Britain, they could preserve their international leavening even if the number of initial applicants from overseas fell by more than half.

So when foreign students' fees are treated as a straightforward issue, the balance of argument seems to be in favour of charging at least the full cost. But in reality the issue is far from straightforward, and for three main reasons.

The first is that nobody knows how many overseas students there really are in the category of people not holding a British passport who came here to study. They are defined officially only as students who are "not normally resident in this country," and the figures in the table represent all those in this category. But the definition is interpreted differently by different local education authorities which are directly responsible for the award of student grants.

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Loophole

Some authorities treat anyone who has been in the UK for at least three years—except for holidays—as "normally resident in this country." So foreign families with detailed knowledge of British local government can, especially if rich enough to afford boarding places at independent schools, arrange for their sons and daughters to become officially

British students, and go on to university, polytechnic or college on that basis.

The Department of Education and Science says that increasing numbers of local authorities are now closing this loophole, as a result of the pressure on public spending. But clearly, if policy on overseas students' fees is to be fair to all foreigners alike, the definition of who is and who is not an overseas student needs to be tighter—and uniform throughout the country.

A second difficulty arises from the fact that foreign students are not distributed evenly across the whole range of studies. They are concentrated heavily in those of the technological kind, not only at degree level, but also in sub-degree "vocational training" in technical colleges.

Such programmes often have a majority of students from abroad so, if higher fees significantly reduced overseas demand, there would be the problem of what to do with the British students.

If the "uneconomical" courses were continued, or if the British students from several sparsely attended courses were sent instead to one regional centre, the unit costs of their training would rise steeply. Simply closing the courses would deprive Britain of much-needed skilled workers.

Moreover, there is almost certainly an investment value in having foreigners on technical courses in this country, because the future managers and sociologists are trained on British equipment and are likely to prefer to use it when they return home.

The third probable and undesirable consequence of further fee rises is indicated by the last column of figures in the table. Following the 60 per cent average rise in autumn 1977, most of the 18 countries

sent more students, and the contingents from Cyprus and the United States and its dependencies declined only slightly. But there were marked decreases in the numbers from India, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. And these four are the only countries in the table "which, in terms of Gross National Product per head are classified among the world's poorest group of nations."

Burden

So it seems that, while relatively wealthy nations may take increased charges in their stride, the inducement will find them a forbidding burden. This is, of course, no argument for continuing to subsidise overseas students' fees generally. But it is surely a compelling case for the provision of generously increased funds to help youngsters who, although well qualified for British higher or further education, cannot afford to come here.

If the Government is to charge the "full economic cost," it needs to ensure that the necessary funds are available to assist such deserving cases in their stride. The inducement will find them a forbidding burden. This is, of course, no argument for continuing to subsidise overseas students' fees generally. But it is surely a compelling case for the provision of generously increased funds to help youngsters who, although well qualified for British higher or further education, cannot afford to come here.

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Letters to the Editor

Leasing aids business

From Mr. S. Knott
Sir—I cannot understand the conclusion of the article reached by Mr. J. R. Frank and Mr. S. D. Hodges of the London Business School (August 6).

The benefit of the tax credit appears to be split roughly equally between the lessor and the lessee. This is reflected in the reduction in interest rate charges, where money is loaned rather than borrowed, the difference is in excess of 3 per cent.

Toward the end of 1978 there was a considerable increase in interest rates; at the same time there was a decrease in leasing charges, caused by the excess taxable capacity of the clearing banks which reflected a good profit year.

If bank lessors were retaining the whole or most of the advantage of the tax credit this would be reflected in above average profitability for their leasing subsidiaries. The table shows the figures for the main bank leasing subsidiaries for 1977.

For this purpose employed capital does include the capital and reserves of the leasing subsidiaries plus deferred tax. The table shows that not one bank lessor had a return in excess of 10 per cent and that the median figure was 5.9 per cent. Had these assets been employed in short term pledged the average return would have been at least twice.

Not all of the figures for 1978 are yet available but I do not see any change in the underlying trend. The return on

	Employed capital £000	Pre-tax profits £000	Return on capital %
Midland Montagu	114,958	7,246	6.4
Barclays Leasing	85,890	9,611	9.4
Lloyds Leasing	75,190	3,923	2.6
Lombard Nbr. Central (Nat. West)	61,455	3,616	5.9
Royal Bank Leasing	37,104	794	2.1
Williams and Glyn's	16,554	510	3.1
Ibos Leasing (Bank of Scotland)	12,022	689	5.8

assets is about one third of the standard return in the banking sector which means that a considerable portion of the benefit goes to the lessee.

If the Government was to act on the advice of Messrs. Frank and Hodges the damage to the economy would be considerable. Leasing represents the easiest form of medium term finance for medium sized and small businesses who are paying no tax, except on a corporation tax. The withdrawal of this facility would reduce the level of investment, have some effect on unemployment, and damage profitability.

S. H. J. A. Knott,
Greene and Co.,
Finsbury House,
22, Bloomfield Street, EC2.

A concrete cuckoo

From Mr. D. Burgess-Wise
Sir—My apologies to Mr. Turner of British Airports Authority (July 31). I had assumed that in his position he would have been aware of the Battersee report and of the Open University energy department report, both of which totally refute the need for a third London Airport. And, indeed, that he would have read the editorial in Flight International for July 14 which also argues against the need for a third London airport.

Unfortunately, the body that he represents does not seem to know when to give up—its quest for a third London airport site has now celebrated its 25th anniversary, and has always been rejected on both environmental and cost objections. I would hate to estimate the total cost to the nation of this obstinate attempt to plant the BAA's concrete cuckoo in someone else's nest.

Most of the proposed sites have already been rejected by earlier airport commissions, so why have they now been revisited? The sites have not changed, and therefore must be as unsuitable for a gigantic airport now as they ever were.

Perhaps Mr. Turner could also explain why BAA should be above the Green Belt regulations which apply to everyone else. Was not aware that the siting of a pleasure airport was a national emergency.

David Burgess-Wise,
25, Wofker Avenue,
Fyfield,
Oxford, Essex.

Closure at Portmadoc

From the President, Consumer Products Division, SCM Corporation
Sir—The article on the closing of SCM's Portmadoc type-writer factory by Mr. Robin Reeves (July 20) is inaccurate. It is unfair to SCM. The article suggests that the rising value

Shopping centre brashness

From Shirley Dupree
Sir—We read with interest Colin Amery's article on Milton Keynes shopping centre (July 30) and would draw particular attention to his comment that "the cool austerity of the Milton Keynes centre is too uniform and too controlled to have much meaning for the people who are going to use it."

The problem of architects' constant aspirations to create an ideal wonderland is that the rest of us have to live with their creations now. Awareness and appreciation of "good taste" design is very limited and must be seen in the context of reality and natural contrast.

A shopping centre is a meeting place. The signs and messages, sound, smell, people and merchandise are all essential ingredients in creating a "market place" alive with variety and colour. Visiting the market place is a necessary social activity for real people; we must ensure that it is also pleasurable.

Thank goodness for the "brash facades and bideous lettering" that we know and understand—the familiar in an unfamiliar environment.

The primary concern of retailers must be serving the people of today. The mechanics of a permanent structure well detailed and built should never be confused with something alive and real which has to respond to current trends and changes. Reliance on an exciting tempo all of its own which will survive despite architects and town planners.

Shirley Dupree,
Dupree Partnership,
1, Ives Street, SW3.

A tax on sales of homes

From Mr. D. Prag MEP
Sir—As someone who is just in process of moving, I feel particularly qualified to criticise the proposal of Councillor Stewart Ewing (August 7) for subjecting the gain on selling owner-occupied houses to capital gains tax.

I cannot think of anything more foolish, in the first place, than the capital gain on most owner-occupied houses is due to inflation. More important, however, is the fact that the owner-occupier rarely gains any advantage though the house be bought, say 10 years ago for £8,000 having increased in value

Currency futures

From the Economic Adviser, Burge and Co.
Sir—The information given by David Lascelles in his article (August 8) about currency futures in the Chicago international money market is fascinating.

There is another point, he omits, which I suggest could become important. When Foreign Exchange markets are optimistic about a particular

Today's Events

- GENERAL**
UK: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, and Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, present Rhinodan constitutional proposals to the Cabinet.
Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and Transport and General Workers' Union meet to discuss inter-union dispute halting work at Humberston ore terminal.
Society of Civil and Public Servants, and Civil and Public Services Association discuss possible strike over pay by 500 London magistrates court clerks.
Mersey dockers discuss unofficial strike over pay.
Trust and International Trade Fair opens, Falkirk (until August 31).
Overseas: Sir Kenneth Clark, Lord Mayor of London, meets chairman of Federation of Korean Industries in Seoul.
Ecuadorian civil government due to take office.
- OFFICIAL STATISTICS**
House renovations—work completed (second quarter).
Slum clearance (second quarter).
Housing starts and completions (June).
Building Societies' receipts and loans (July).
Final dividends: Rowland Gaunt, Wm. Jackson and Son, Wholesale Fittings Company, Interim dividends: Radiant Metal Finishing Company.
COMPANY MEETINGS
Dundonian, Euro Crest Hotel.
- Queensferry Road, Edinburgh, 11. Radiant Metal Finishing, 69, Fairfield Road, Row, E. 12.30.
Scots, Saxon Inn Hotel, New Tree Drive, Blackburn, 11.30.
LUNCHTIME MUSIC, London
Band concert, Tower Place, 00m-2.00 pm.
Pop band, Travelling Vango, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 12.15 pm.
Recital by Ivan Andric (piano) and Christine Cresnaw (soprano), St. Lawrence Jewry next Gullhall, 1.00 pm.

amro bank

for international finance, foreign exchange and business development services

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Automotive ahead so far but warns on margins

IN THE first half of 1979 Automotive Products, the vehicle and aircraft equipment manufacturer, managed to raise profits by 8.3 per cent to £7.88m, but the directors warn on the second six months.

The profit was achieved in the face of the bad winter and the transport dispute, and compared with the second half of 1978 shows only a 2.1 per cent increase. Turnover at £95m is 9 per cent up on both periods.

INDEX TO COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS table with columns for Company, Page, Col., Company, Page, Col.

Mercantile Investment expansion

Net revenue of Mercantile Investment Trust rose to £1.68m in the half year to July 31, 1979, compared with £1.32m last time.

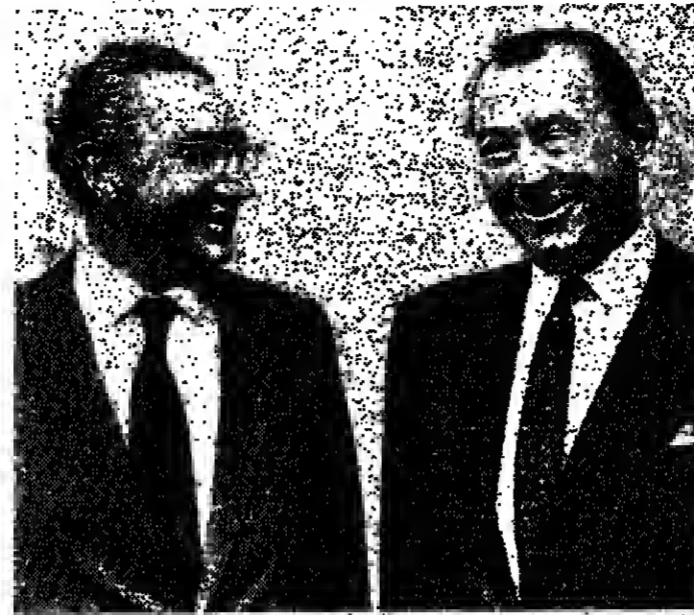
A-American Securities up midway

NET REVENUE of Anglo-American Securities Corporation rose from £1.01m to £1.23m in the six months to July 15, 1979, after tax of £663,319, against £600,471.

GEC in strong position to face next decade

BY JOHN LLOYD

Sir Arnold Weinstein, managing director of General Electric Company said yesterday that whatever lies ahead, the group was "in a far stronger position to withstand setbacks and to take advantage of new opportunities in the 1980s than when we were founded in 1917."



Sir Arnold Weinstein (left), managing director of the General Electric Company with Lord Nelson of Stafford, the chairman.

In his annual statement, Lord Nelson, chairman, says that the advantages expected for GEC from mergers with English Electric and AET 10 years ago have been fully realised.

GE of America exported 18 per cent of its U.S. manufactures. GEC on the other hand exported 34 per cent of its home manufacture (£751m out of £2.2bn) and so was close to Siemens which exported nearly 40 per cent of its output.

Second half lift for Longton

A SECOND half increase from £483,000 to £530,000 lifted taxable profits of Longton Transport (Holdings) to a record £1.65m for the year ended March 31, 1979, against £1.12m previously, a rise of 47.5 per cent.

At half-way, the directors were confident on improving the full year's figure, despite the lorry drivers' strike at the beginning of 1979.

string growth on the storage and distribution side of the business. Elsewhere, buoyant sales of cars and specialised machinery more than offset difficult trading conditions in the commercial vehicle sector to give an impressive 79 per cent profit rise to £470,000 for the group's smaller vehicles division. Overall, the group is trading in volatile areas, a factor which probably explains the undemanding rating of the shares which at 83p, sell on a p/e of 3.6 (low tax charge) while the yield is nine per cent.

7% Swiss convertible for Leves

Leves, the fabric printing group, is raising a £380,000 convertible ten-year loan at 7 per cent from a Swiss investment bank. The stock is convertible into Leves ordinary shares at a price of 20p.

Pitney Bowes passes £1.3m

Taxable profits of Pitney Bowes rose from £1.2m to £1.3m in the first half of 1979, on increased turnover of £12.6m against £9.75m. In the last full year, the surplus reached £2.2m. After tax of £681,000 (£830,000), net profit came through at £653,000, compared with £575,000.

Mr. Currie denies forecasting £350,000 profit for Belhaven

BY JAMES BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. Gordon Currie, a former chairman at Belhaven Brewery Group, yesterday told his side of the boardroom row which has suddenly erupted.

His version came the day after Mr. Roy Ling, the chairman West a week ago, made serious criticisms of Mr. Currie and just before the rest of the board comes out with its own statement. The climax of the battle - unless Mr. Peter Rowland, the current chairman, can conciliate the parties - may come at a board meeting today.

properties £140,000, profit on redemption of dollar loan £60,000 and an insurance claim of £25,000.

Mr. Currie says that the hedged pre-tax profit was only £50,000. In fact even this figure was not met. The actual result was a pre-tax loss of £58,000. Mr. Currie says that factors contributing to the shortfall were the irrecoverability of the insurance claim and the transformation of the exchange profit into a loss because of the strength of the pound.

English & NY earnings up

For the first half of 1979, total gross revenue of English and New York Trust Company showed little change at £1.18m, compared with £1.15m.

Move to oust Brit. Dredging board

A former chairman of British Dredging, the loss-making company in which Reddy Mixed Concrete owns nearly 25 per cent, will attempt to oust the rest of the present Board at a special meeting later this month.

Backed by 13.7 per cent of the company's shares held by himself, family and associates, Mr. D. Mostyn Bowles has forced British Dredging to schedule an extraordinary meeting on August 31 to elect a new board.

He is seeking to remove the whole Board, apart from himself, and to appoint Mr. Price Stephens as his fellow director. Mr. Mostyn Bowles is currently a non-executive Board member. The present chairman, Mr. Bryan Clark, said the Board would oppose vigorously the resolutions to change the Board composition and size.

Last year, the company trimmed its trading loss to £170,450 from £756,820. However, after inclusion of the £830,000 profit on the sale of its London marine dredging interests and nearly £12,000 from a surplus on debenture stock redemption, it ended up with a net profit of £602,300 against a loss the previous year of £368,110.

Provisions qualified The company's auditors, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, have qualified the accounts, stating they are unable to determine whether certain provisions are adequate or excessive.

One provision concerns £150,000 against the long-term debtor of £400,000 due from the purchasers of the group's interest in Pauls Federated Merchants. The other is for £700,000 against losses occurring in the closure of a Plymouth Engineering and possible losses in the event of closure or disposal of the European operations.

Mr. Clark told shareholders in a statement sent out with the accounts that "your company is now ready to return to full health." He added that the action proposed by Mr. Mostyn Bowles could only have an adverse effect on the company's progress and the share price.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Table with columns: Company, Current payment, Date of payment, Dividend, Total dividend, Total of last year.

RATCLIFFS (GREAT BRIDGE) LIMITED



INTERIM REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS 1979

The unaudited group earnings for the six months to 30th June were as follows:-

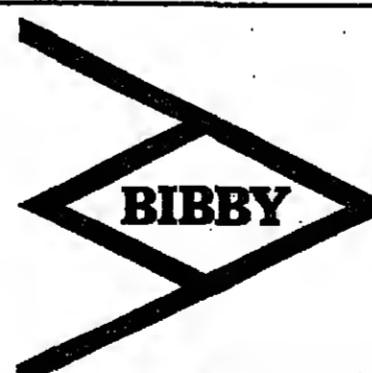
Table with columns: Group Sales, Earnings Gross, Estimated Taxation, Half Year to 30.6.79, Half Year to 30.6.78, Full Year 1978.

Both Great Bridge and its Canadian subsidiary have had a satisfactory first half, although the sterling value of Canadian earnings has been reduced by Exchange Rate movements.

Prospects for the second half are somewhat clouded by the possibility of a recession in the U.S. and the continued strength of Sterling, nevertheless a satisfactory performance is anticipated.

Following the lapsing of dividend controls, your Directors have declared an interim dividend of 10p (0.75p) per Ordinary Share payable on 1st November to all shareholders on the Register at 7th September 1979 and if the results for the year compare favourably with 1978 your Directors would expect to recommend a final dividend of 2.0p (1.3683p) per share.

9th August 1979 F. R. RATCLIFF (Chairman)



J. BIBBY AND SONS LIMITED

Half-year profits reach new peak

- Highlights from the report
Another record half-year result with a gain in the Agricultural Group more than offsetting a reduction in the Industrial Group.
Interim dividend increased from 3.0p (excluding special interim) to 6.0p per share. Total payment for the year will be at least equivalent to 18p per £1 share, nearly double the 9.7320p per share paid in respect of 1978.

Interim Report for the 26 weeks ended 30 June 1979

Table with columns: 1979, 1978, Change, Sales, Trading Surplus, Profit before Tax, Profit after tax but before extraordinary items, Net dividend paid (pence per share).

J Bibby & Sons Limited, Richmond House, 1 Rumford Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ

Anglo American Gold Investment Company Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

INTERIM REPORT

The following are the estimated results of Anglo American Gold Investment Company Limited and its subsidiaries for the half-year ending August 31 1979 together with figures for the eight months ended August 31 1978 and the fourteen months ended February 28 1979.

Table with columns: Estimated for half-year ending, Eight months, Fourteen months ended, Investment Income, Interest earned and other income, Deduct: Administration expenses, interest paid, prospecting and mineral rights expenses, Group profit before taxation, South African normal taxation, Group profit after taxation, Preference dividends paid and accrued, Earnings attributable to Ordinary shareholders, Ordinary dividends, Retained profit, Number of ordinary shares in issue, Earnings per share—cents, Dividend per share—cents.

NOTES

- 1. It should be assumed that the results for the first half of the year are necessarily provisional to the results for the financial year ending February 29 1980 since investment income does not accrue evenly during the year and certain costs, particularly those incurred on prospecting and mineral rights, vary materially from time to time.
2. Particulars of the group's listed investments and the net asset value are as follows:
(a) Listed Investments
Market value, Book value, Appreciation.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

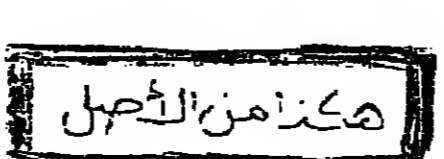
Interim dividend No. 63 of 175 cents a share (1978: 100 cents) for the year ending February 29 1980 has been declared payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on August 24 1979 and to persons presenting coupon No. 93 marked "South Africa" detached from share warrants to bearer.

The transfer registers and registers of members will be closed from August 25 to September 7 1979, both days inclusive, and warrants will be posted from Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about October 4 1979. Registered shareholders paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on September 25 1979 of the rand value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such shareholders may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the company's transfer secretaries on or before August 24 1979.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 15 per cent. The dividend is payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head and London offices of the company and at the offices of the company's transfer secretaries, Consolidated Share Registrars Limited, 62 Marshall Street, Johannesburg 2001, and Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ, England.

Holders of share warrants to bearer are notified that the dividend is payable on or after October 5 1979 upon presentation of coupon No. 63 (marked "South Africa") only at the offices of Barclays National Bank Limited, Stock Exchange Branch, Diagonal Street, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa—Union Bank of Switzerland, Bahnhofstrasse 45, Zurich, Switzerland—Credit du Nord, 6 & 8 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 9e, France, and Banque Bruxelles Lambert, 2 Rue de la Regence, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Coupons must be left at least four clear days for examination.

Note: Proceeds of dividends in respect of coupons marked "South Africa" may, at the request of the depositors, be converted through an authorised dealer to exchange in the Republic of South Africa into any currency. The effective rate of exchange for conversion into any such currency will be that prevailing at the time the proceeds of the dividends are deposited with the authorised dealer in exchange. By order of the board ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED Secretaries per H. J. E. Stanley Companies Secretary London Office: 40 Holborn Viaduct EC1P 1AJ Head Office: 44 Main Street Johannesburg 2001 August 10 1979



UK COMPANY NEWS

Yorkgreen seeks cash to expand Interlite

For the second time in less than a year Yorkgreen Investments is asking shareholders for a further injection of cash. The latest call is for £300,000...

Associated Tooling up to £0.15m

TAXABLE profits of Associated Tooling Industries advanced from £108,356 to £152,546 in the year to February 28, 1979. This compares with the record £254,852 in 1974/75.

City of London Brewery ahead

Net revenue of City of London Brewery and Investment Trust rose from £1.53m to £1.74m in the year to June 30, 1979.

Relyon optimistic after passing £0.9m at midway

IN LINE with the May forecast of a good year, Relyon PBWS, the Somerset mattress and divan manufacturer, reports first half 1979 pre-tax profits up from £718,000 to £921,000.

Ratcliffs raises dividend 33%

Profits of Ratcliffs (Great Bridge), the brass and copper strip maker, were little changed in the half-year to June 30, 1979. On turnover up from £21.47m to £22.38m the taxable surplus stood at £536,000, against £517,000, but the dividend is being raised 33 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indicators are not available as to whether dividends are intended or final and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

the directors would like to restore the proportion of the company's funds invested overseas. A breakdown of portfolio distribution shows (in per cent): UK 69.5 (60.3); North America 24.3 (31.2); and other countries 6.1 (8.5).

Hawley Leisure upsurge

BOOSTED by acquisitions made during the period Hawley Leisure, formerly Hawley Goodall Group, reports an upsurge in both turnover and profits for the first six months of 1979.

Technology Trust rises to £628,000

Revenue of the Technology Investment Trust increased from £521,489 to £628,221 for the year ended May 31, 1979, after tax of £161,472, against £119,968, and expenses of £95,407, compared with £88,477.

Aquis improves to £154,058 at midterm

Reflecting the sale of buildings and land at gross contract prices of £760,000, gross income of Aquis Securities jumped from £97,400 to £154,058 in the first half of 1979. Pre-tax profits for the period moved ahead from £89,499 to £154,058.

LONDON TRUST

London Trust Company wishes to point out that it has no connection with London Investment Trust, a loss-making company which has recently reduced its capital as part of a restructuring.

Disputes leave David Smith £0.42m down—dividend up 2p

REFLECTING industrial disputes and a drop in sales, David S. Smith (Holdings), the photolitho printer and toner maker, fell from £1.31m to £0.89m in the year ended April 30, 1979. At halfway a situation from £872,000 to £920,000 was reported.

with consequential effect on profits. He reports that trading to date is satisfactory with margins being restored to traditional levels. Orders on hand should ensure this continues for at least the first six months.

comment

David S. Smith has suffered a 32 per cent drop in pre-tax earnings for the full year, combined with a decline in sales of over 34 per cent. The company has only one factory for its carton manufacturing, located in South Wales. This was hit by a strike for close to five weeks during the first half, with an estimated sales loss of about £1m. Profits suffered as a result of being held up by the winter transport strike.

The explanation for the dividend hike is that the payout had been forecast last year, at the time of the company's reconstruction scheme, in which shareholders received a cash distribution of 30p per share. The group has stuck to its prediction, even though the dividend covered just 1.6 times. The yield is 9.4 per cent at 78p per share, down 3p yesterday and the p/e comes to 9.3. Shareholders should keep in mind that 1979 represents the second consecutive year of declining pre-tax profits, but the order book is looking good and David S. Smith may be able to recover to its 1977 performance of more than £1.3m in profits if there are no harsh surprises.

ARMITAGE SHANKS

At the annual meeting of Armitage Shanks Group, Mr. Kenedy Campbell, chairman, said overall profitability was continuing at levels which matched those of last year, and all divisions were contributing well.

International division had achieved increased contributions which more than offset the effect of the strengthening pound.

Carlton Real Estates

Profit after tax of Carlton Real Estates amounted to £42,561 in the six months ended June 30, 1979, after tax of £28,370. Earnings per share are stated at 0.53p.

In March the company acquired the capital of the two Carlton property companies and it is from the activities of these companies that the profit has been derived. In June the company acquired a third property, Spartan Investments.

Sir David Roche, chairman, states that the company has significantly increased its net assets which will be reflected in the year end accounts, as it is intended that a full professional valuation will be carried out as at November 30, 1979. The present property portfolio yields in a full year a net rental income of over £72,000.

It is intended to recommend payment of a dividend at the year end.

BROWN AND TAWSE

At the AGM the chairman of Brown and Tawse said sales for first four months of current year showed an encouraging increase over corresponding period. The directors remained confident in the outlook for the full year.

FOOD PRICE MOVEMENTS

Table with columns: August 9, Week ago, Month ago. Rows include Bacon, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry.

Town & City Properties LIMITED

Extracts from the Chairman's statement

Town & City has recovered further during the past year, although continuing high interest rates slowed the reduction in the Group loss. Within the Group's results was another encouraging performance by the Service Industry Division.

The loss for the year to 24th March fell from £17.3 million to £13.9 million, after charging net interest of £23.7 million, against £27.3 million. The loss was £6.2 million in the second half year, as against £7.7 million in the first half.

The Group's borrowings have shown a further fall during the year as a result of the continuing sales programme. Borrowings were reduced from £254.7 million to £223.6 million at the year end, before taking into account cash and deposits of £5.3 million.

Sales of property amounted to £53 million during the year, compared with a book value of £47 million. Since the year end another £20 million, book value £7 million, have been sold or are under contract for sale; this takes the total sold since 1st April, 1974 to £345 million, against a book value of £321 million. There remains a satisfactory volume of sales in the pipeline.

Your Board's short term objectives remain to reduce the Group's variable rate borrowings and to return to profitability, although the level of interest rates clearly affects the timing in reaching these objectives. The increased income from reversions and new lettings together with the effect of the disposal programme and the rising earnings from the Service Industry Division are steadily taking us towards our goal.

J. M. STERLING

ACROW record profits, turnover and exports for the 33rd consecutive time.



A statement by W.A. de Vigier, Esq., C.B.E., Chairman of the Acrow Group

It is exceedingly gratifying—in such a difficult year for the world economy—to have achieved record turnover, record exports and record profits for the 33rd consecutive time.

For the first time in our history, annual turnover has exceeded £150 million.

This would not have been possible without the whole-hearted efforts of the entire Acrow team, and I have to thank all my fellow workers for their continued support.

The directors have decided to recommend a final Dividend of 6% making a total of 12% on the increased share capital compared with 9.2% last year.

You will note in the accounts that the figure of £16 million for goodwill, which resulted substantially from the purchase of the Steel Group in 1972, has been charged against reserves. We face the future with confidence.

GROWTH OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Table comparing 1975 and 1979 data for Turnover, Exports, and Profit Before Tax and Extraordinary Items, showing percentage increases of 89%, 154%, and 130% respectively.

A selection of trademarks within the Acrow world organisation.



UK COMPANY NEWS

BIDS AND DEALS

MINING NEWS

Amgold riding a wave of rising income

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

SPARKLING results for the half-year to August were announced by Anglo American Gold Investment (Amgold), the major South African gold mining investment company in which Anglo American Corporation has a stake of 45 per cent.

At the end of 1977, it is intended to produce annually 3m tons of blast furnace pellets and 3m tons of low silica pellets.

But the operation has not yet reached full capacity because it is still in the start-up and breaking-in stage, according to Sidbec. At the same time however, it still has to bear heavy interest payments and matters have not been helped by the weakness of iron oxide pellet prices on the international market.

IMM group to visit China

THE current president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, Dr. D. A. Temple, is to lead a group visit to October to the Peoples Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese Society of Metals.

Sidbec plant loses C\$21m

CANADA'S iron ore and pellet-producing Sidbec-Normine, in which Quebec's Sidbec steel group holds 50.1 per cent and British Steel Corporation has 41.7 per cent, has suffered a first half loss of C\$21.2m (£8.2m).

ROUND-UP

Bethlehem Copper, the major producer of copper and molybdenum in the Highland Valley district of British Columbia, has earned more in the first half of this year than in all of 1978.

Close outcome expected as Redman lifts offer

JUST A day before its offer closed, Redman International has increased its cash bid for Wellman Engineering Corporation by 5p to 70p per share.

On the most recently published defence forecast, the increased terms imply an exit p/e of 8.4 and a yield of 9.7 per cent. Shares in Wellman climbed 3 1/2p yesterday to 88p.

Sunley will get £16m for Isola

Bernard Sunley Investment Trust will receive more than £16m for Isola 2000, ski resort it owned in Southern France and has now sold to Middle Eastern interests, according to reports from Paris.

BRENT CHEMICALS ITALIAN DEAL

Brent Chemicals has paid £50m (£26,000) cash for Wyandotte SpA of Milan, formerly a subsidiary of BASF Wyandotte Corporation, which is part of BASF of West Germany.

WEDGWOOD TALKS SUSPENDED

Talks aimed at securing the eventual control by Wedgwood of the Italian ceramics company, Pozzi Ginori, have been suspended by mutual agreement.

NO PROBES

The following proposed mergers are not to be referred to the Motopoll Commission:

MINING INVEST.

The Mining Investment Corporation has sold its investment of 211,988 shares of British Silk Premier Mines (38 per cent) for C\$457,375 (£173,840).

RENEWED SUPPORT

Renewed support for Bestobell's vigorous defence against the BTR bid has come from Britannic Assurance, which said yesterday it continued to oppose the increased terms.

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The bid has been accepted in respect of 6.1 per cent of the Wellman equity which, taken with 19.87 per cent acquired before the bid and a further 1.1 per cent purchased during the offer, amounts to 27.07 per cent. Hambros Bank, advising Redman, owns a further 4.57 per cent which it will assent to the offer. The bidder thus controls 30.64 per cent.

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Hallite halved to £528,000

Taxable profits of Hallite Holdings, the synthetic rubber and plastic precision seals group, were more than halved in the year to April 28, 1979. The group saw the taxable surplus tumble from a record £1,071,000 to £528,000 on turnover of £7,151m against £7,027m.

Substantially lower profits were forecast at midway when the pre-tax surplus was down from £492,199 to £118,380. The directors then said orders from the UK remained low, but continued progress was expected in overseas markets.

But they now point to an improving profit trend in the second half of last year, and expect to see the year-end surplus improve for 1979/80. Orders in hand are at a satisfactory level.

After tax of £12,090, against £298,817, stated earnings per share are well down on 33.73p to 13.75p. But the net payment per 50p share is lifted from 6.52p to 6.7497p with a final 4.5697p.

EPIC finishes ahead at £1.4m and pays 4.25p

PRE-TAX income of Epitax Property Investment Company rose from £1.14m to £1.39m for the year ended April 30, 1979, and the net dividend is stepped up to 4.25p with a final 2.75p, last year's total being 2.35p.

Earnings per 25p share are shown at 4.8p, compared with 3.85p. Tax took £470,000 (£348,000) and there was interest of £219,000 (£208,000) arising in 1979, attributable to the Belgian development. The available surplus came through at £703,000 (£524,000) and with the unappropriated profit of £270,000 (£392,000) brought forward made £1,273,000 (£916,000).

Dividends will absorb £522,000 (£346,000) leaving £751,000 (£570,000) to be carried forward. All group properties, except one which is in the course of being sold, were revalued as at April 30 at £41.32m. This provided a surplus over book value of £2,061,000 (£1,500,000) and minority interests resulting in a net asset value per share of 194p.

WOLF TOOLS DECLINES TO £1.08M

LOWER margins due to a lack of growth in international trade, and severe price competition generated by strong sterling left sales and profits of Wolf Electric Tools (Holdings) down for the first six months of 1979.

The net interim dividend is raised from 0.625p to 0.85p per 25p share and an additional 0.06333p is payable for 1978 on ACT reduction—last year's final was 0.78944p.

W. H. CULLEN

The following are extracts from the Annual Report for the year ended 28th February, 1979.

ACTIVITIES

The business of the Company has continued to be that of Grocers with particular emphasis on quality goods and fresh foods, and Wine, Spirit and Beer Merchants.

COMPANY'S AFFAIRS

During the course of the year the company has closed down 11 unprofitable outlets, of which four were pure off-licences, and has opened two new grocery stores—one in Stirling and the other at Tube Hill, Sevenoaks—and three new off-licences at Perivale, Midhurst and Walton-on-the-Hill. All these new businesses are going very well and should certainly make a good contribution to next year's results.

Year-end fall to £2.5m for Assam Inv.

Taxable profits of Assam Investments fell from £3.7m to £2.46m in 1978. And the directors say that because of the seasonal nature of the company's business, results for the next accounting period, the 18 months to June 30, 1979, must be much lower than for 1978 alone.

The net interim dividend is raised from 0.625p to 0.85p per 25p share and an additional 0.06333p is payable for 1978 on ACT reduction—last year's final was 0.78944p.

BANK RETURN

Wednesday Aug. 8, 1979

Table with columns: Liabilities, Assets, and various financial metrics.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT

Table with columns: Notes issued, Government Debt, and other financial metrics.

FULCRUM INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

Net asset value (unaudited) as at 31st July, 1979. Income shares: 40.6p. Capital shares: 3.0p.

Britannic renews its support for Bestobell independence

Renewed support for Bestobell's vigorous defence against the BTR bid has come from Britannic Assurance, which said yesterday it continued to oppose the increased terms.

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Carclo Summary of Results table showing financial data for Year to 31st March 1979 and 1978.

ANGLO-AMERICAN SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED Interim Financial Statement for the six months ended 15th July, 1979.

London W.I. Luxury Furnished Apartments advertisement with contact details.

Small text at the bottom right corner of the page.

Dollar eases, pound firms

DOLLAR'S recent period of active stability came to an end in currency markets...

FRANKFURT—There was no intervention by the Bundesbank yesterday when the dollar was fixed at DM 1.8558...

EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Table with columns: Currency, Central rate, % change, % change adjusted for divergence, Divergence limit %.

CHANGE CROSS RATES

Table with columns: August 9, Pound Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Deutsche Mark, Japanese Yen, French Franc, Swiss Franc, Dutch Guilder, Italian Lira, Canadian Dollar, Belgian Franc.

NO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Table with columns: Aug. 9, Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Dutch Guilder, Swiss Franc, West German Mark, French Franc, Italian Lira, Asian 6, Japanese Yen.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET

Paris rates unchanged

Bank of France bought 100-100 per cent. The six- and 12-month rates were also static...

MONEY MARKET

Adequate credit supply

Bank of England minimum lending rate 14 per cent (since June 12 1979)...

INDON MONEY RATES

Table with columns: Aug. 9 1979, Sterling Certificate of deposit, Interbank deposits, Local Authority deposits, Finance House deposits, Company deposits, Discount deposits, Treasury Bills, Eligible Bank Bills, Fine Trade Bills.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Table with columns: Aug. 9, Day's spread, Close, One month, % Three p.a., % p.a.

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Table with columns: Aug. 9, Day's spread, Close, One month, % Three p.a., % p.a.

CURRENCY RATES

Table with columns: Aug. 9, Bank rate, Special Drawing Rights, European Currency Unit, Aug. 9, Bank of England, Morgan Guaranty, Index, Currencies.

OTHER MARKETS

Table with columns: August 9, Argentina Peso, Australia Dollar, Brazil Cruzeiro, Canadian Dollar, Danish Kroner, D. Mark, Hong Kong Dollar, Kuwait Dinar, Luxembourg Franc, Malaysia Dollar, New Zealand Dollar, Saudi Arab. Riyal, Singapore Dollar, S.W. African Rand.

Advertisement for Redman Heenan International Limited. Text: 'TO THE ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS OF THE WELLMAN ENGINEERING CORPORATION LIMITED. INCREASED OFFER FOR YOUR SHARES. Redman Heenan has announced that it will make an increased offer for your shares...'

Advertisement for Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, Ltd. Text: 'Whatever the size of your project, whatever the scope of your ambitions, come to the Long-Term Credit Bank. As one of Japan's leading long-term credit banks...'

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

Lehman moves into real estate services

By Our New York Staff THE DIVERSIFICATION OF U.S. securities companies into real estate services has been taken a significant stage further by Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb, a leading Wall Street investment bank, which is to acquire one of the country's top mortgage brokers, Sonnenblick-Goldman Corporation.

Chrysler plans sales drive

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

CHRYSLER Corporation is planning a new sales campaign aimed at reducing its crippling burden of unsold vehicles, amid indications that it is requesting \$1bn of government aid in running into difficulties in Washington.

White House and Treasury officials on Wednesday, at which he presented further information on the company's financial plight at the end of a six-month period in which it has lost a record \$260m.

wants to be satisfied that the \$1bn would actually turn the company round and ensure its long-term survival. In addition, Chrysler has not been able to present a possible role for its bankers, employees and stockholders which would indicate that they too are prepared to make strenuous efforts to ensure its survival.

ITT wins concession over disclosures

By Our New York Staff

INTERNATIONAL Telephone and Telegraph has won an unusual concession from the Securities and Exchange Commission in the settlement of litigation which had accused the company of making millions of dollars of "illegal, improper, corrupt and questionable payments" abroad.

Norwegian shipping group squeezed in first six months

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO

LEIF HOEGH, a leading Norwegian shipping group, reports a slightly lower return on capital in first-half 1979 than in the same period a year earlier, although operating profits showed a small increase.

Miller Brewing account shifts

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

THE Miller Brewing Company, a division of the large Philip Morris consumer products group and maker of the fastest-growing beer brand in the U.S., has surprised the New York advertising community by switching its account to a new and as yet little-known advertising agency.

The change is important, since Miller has moved from number seven in the brewing league, when Philip Morris acquired it in 1970, to number two today largely as a result of aggressive marketing.

Optimism at McDonnell Douglas

St. Louis—The crash on May 25 of an American Airlines DC-10 and subsequent groundings of the Trijet will not have a long-term impact of any significance on McDonnell Douglas, according to Mr. Sanford N. McDonnell, president and chief executive of the group.

Commission clears bidders for Bodcaw

By Our New York Staff THE THREE bidders for Bodcaw, the closely-held Texas timber company, have received provisional clearance from the Federal Trade Commission. But the FTC may try to reverse a takeover later if it deems it anti-competitive.

Gain by Asbestos Corporation

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

ASBESTOS CORPORATION, which is controlled by General Dynamics Corporation, the U.S. aircraft and building materials manufacturer, and whose Quebec assets at present face a takeover move by the Quebec Provincial Government, had first half earnings of C\$8.3m (U.S.\$1.09m) or C\$2.93 a share against C\$7.2m or C\$2.55 a year ago.

The \$72m account was removed from Interpublic, a unit of McCann-Ericsson, and given to Backer and Spielvogel, a new agency formed by former executives of Interpublic and McCann-Ericsson. As is the case with many moves in the advertising business, the executives evidently took their account with them.

These securities having been sold this announcement appears as a matter of record only. S.A. BRAIN & COMPANY, LIMITED. Placing of 995,593 11% Second cumulative preference shares of £1 each at par. HOARE GOVETT LIMITED

Formula set for Pemex facility

BY JOHN EVANS

THE U.S. bankers' acceptance facility of up to \$1.5bn for the state oil agency Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), Mexico's largest international financing to date, is about to be syndicated among major banks.

Canadian dollar Eurobond for Credit Foncier

By Francis Ghilès

A C\$300m issue for Crédit Foncier Franco-Canadien was launched yesterday by Crédit Suisse First Boston. This is the first new Canadian dollar-denominated bond to be floated since Inmat came to the market for C\$10m late last May.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

The list shows the 200 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. For further details of these or other bonds see the complete list of Eurobond prices published on the second Monday of each month.

Table with columns for U.S. DOLLAR, STRAIGHTS, OTHER STRAIGHTS, CONVERTIBLE, and YEN STRAIGHTS. Includes bond names, amounts, and prices.

Private Investment Company for Asia (PICA) S.A. US\$20,000,000 Floating Rate Notes 1986. For the six months from 8th August 1979, to 8th February 1980, the Notes will carry an interest rate of 11 1/2% per annum.

Export Development Corporation (An agent of Her Majesty in right of Canada). Société pour l'expansion des exportations (Mandataire de Sa Majesté du chef du Canada). U.S. \$150,000,000 9 3/4% Notes Due 1984. Credit Suisse First Boston Limited. Wood Gundy Limited. Daiwa Europe N.V. Salomon Brothers International.

Export Development Corporation (An agent of Her Majesty in right of Canada). Société pour l'expansion des exportations (Mandataire de Sa Majesté du chef du Canada). U.S. \$150,000,000 9 3/4% Notes Due 1984. Credit Suisse First Boston Limited. Wood Gundy Limited. Daiwa Europe N.V. Salomon Brothers International.

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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

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NORWEGIAN STOCK MARKET

Displaying a clean pair of heels

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE, RECENTLY IN OSLO

THE MOST bullish of the world's stock markets this year is also one of the smallest. The general index of the Oslo Bourse has climbed 30 per cent since January 1 and some 45 per cent on the low point of March, 37.8. Turnover was close to Kr 340m (\$63m) in the first half of this year and, if the trend continues, it should emerge for 1979 roughly triple last year's level of Nkr 225m.

The upsurge in share prices has been even stronger in terms of the indices calculated by Capital International, the Swiss-based investment services group. While the world index was showing a gain of 41 per cent over the first seven months of this year, the Oslo stock market rose by 84 per cent.

The Norwegian bourse is thus showing a very clean pair of heels to the rest of the world. Canada was the second best performer up to the end of July with a gain of 24 per cent followed closely by the UK which had risen by 20 per cent.

While share dealers are not unhappy about this development, more diffidence than jubilation is evident in the rather lingo Oslo Stock Exchange building overshadowed by the railway station. They are not yet sure that the improvement in trading really implies a revival of faith among badly battered Norwegian stockholders.

On July 17 the general index reached 98, but despite the rise in share prices this year, the index is still a far cry from the 178 touched on January 25, 1974. Speculation in the shares of the oil companies, hastily formed after the discovery of

North Sea oil produced a turnover of Nkr 1,740m for 1978. Since that year the Oslo bourse has taken a lot of punishment. The signal for its present recovery could be said to be a hint last summer that the Labour Government was having second thoughts about the value of the stock exchange as a source of investment capital. The wind was knocked out of

The signal for the upsurge in share prices could be said to be the hint that the Norwegian Government was having second thoughts about the value of the stock market as a source of investment capital.

the market in 1974 after the Government had made it clear that only one private company, Saga, would be allowed to share in the North Sea oil development (the state has a majority holding in Norsk Hydro).

That blow was followed by the shipping crisis, which cut the flow of shipowner earnings to the bourse, and by the implementation of the Labour Party's plans to "democratise" the banks. Then, rising domestic costs priced Norwegian exports out of their markets and the industrial shares, which form the backbone of the bourse, declined.

Worried by the low level of industrial investments, the Finance Ministry announced last summer that it was thinking of ways to stimulate the stock mar-

ket. This reversal of policy coincided with the negotiations for the purchase by Norway of a 40 per cent holding in Volvo, the Swedish car and truck group.

The stock market was sustained by the Ministry's intentions and of the Volvo deal, which would have entailed flooding the bourse with Volvo shares. The Volvo deal aborted and the Finance Ministry's inten-

tions were baulked by the trade unions, which made abandonment of its plans to stimulate the stock market a condition for their acceptance of a wages and prices freeze.

The ministry indicates it will, nevertheless, go ahead with relief measures for share investment, when the freeze is lifted in January. Its budget statement in the autumn is keenly awaited. But there have been more solid reasons for the current rise in share prices.

A small bourse such as Oslo reacts strongly to the fortunes of one or two leading companies. Elkem-Spigerverket, the ferro-alloy and aluminium group, currently accounts for almost 30 per cent of the industrial share index. Norsk Hydro's influence would be even heavier, were not the bulk of its shares

now traded in Paris and Zurich. Hydro is the only Norwegian company whose shares are free for dealing by foreigners.

These two companies have led the Oslo bourse revival. After reporting zero earnings for a couple of years Elkem turned in Nkr 33m pre-tax in 1978 and has taken of this year with earnings of Nkr 42m at the four-month stage and a reported Nkr 92m at half way. The market expects a final pre-tax result well above Nkr 200m. Elkem is making a new Nkr 88m rights issue.

Hydro has revised its profit forecast strongly upwards. It is expected to show improved earnings of Nkr 14-15 a share for 1978-79 followed by a further substantial increase in 1979-80.

Shareholders have to take a long-term dividend view since Hydro is writing off its oil investments over six years. But the Board is expected to fulfil this year its promise to complete the write-up of the face value of the shares to Nkr 100 from the current Nkr 80. By paying an unchanged percentage in dividend it would still boost shareholders' income.

Norwegian private holdings in Hydro are now no more than 17 or 18 per cent, more being held in Paris and Zurich. Dealings by Swiss banks, in particular, have boosted the Hydro price this year and there has been some speculation without any hard evidence that Arab money could be involved. The Hydro price rose from around Nkr 170 last autumn to Nkr 540 at the end of July. It has been trading in the Nkr 470-495 range since.

Investment fund sales fall in Germany

WEST GERMAN investment funds experienced a sharp decline in demand during the second quarter of this year. Sales fell to DM 600m (\$27m) compared to DM 1.3bn in the first quarter of 1979. Investment funds have been badly hit by the setback in the German bond market after the upturn in interest rates that set in during the spring of 1978. First quarter sales totalled almost DM 4bn in 1978 but the three subsequent quarters could only muster a combined DM 4.6bn.

Bahrain Fishing Company loss

BY MARY FRINGS IN BAHRAIN

THE BAHRAIN Fishing Company, in which Ross Seafoods is manager, marketing agent and a 45 per cent shareholder, has warned that it may suspend operations in the Gulf at the end of the month, unless catches of shrimps improve. The results on the 1978-79 fishing season, which ended in February, were BD 1.1m (US\$2.9m) down on the season before, for a net loss of BD 645,888 (\$1.7m). The dividend is passed, whereas in 1977-78 there was a 25 per cent payout from profits of BD 464,121.

Shrimp catches were the lowest in the company's 14-year history—probably due to exceptional environmental conditions resulting from low rainfall and a cool summer, according to the directors' report. Fisheries experts, however, have blamed growing pollution of Gulf coastal waters, and the effect of extensive dredging for land reclamation on shrimp breeding stocks.

Shrimp catches for the new season, which began in June, have not covered operating expenses, the 1,000 or so Bahraini shareholders have

been told. Mr. Denis Revell, the manager, adds that catches had been lower even than last year, when they were half the average.

A substantial loss has been sustained since the end of the last financial year, and the net asset value of the company has further declined. Last year the general reserve fund was drawn down from BD 913,219 to BD 267,331.

The Bahrain Fishing Company operates in Bahrain and Saudi Arabian waters, but poor inshore fishing has also been reported from Qatar.

Heavy tax charge hits Malayawata

By Wong Sulong in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYAWATA, Malaysia's biggest steel company, increased its trading profit by 75 per cent to 13.1m ringgit (US\$6.1m) in the year to March. But because the company had to meet a heavy tax charge, net profit fell by 36 per cent to 5.7m ringgit. Previously, Malayawata had been paying nominal income tax because of its tax status and the huge capital allowances granted to the company. It is paying a dividend of 10 per cent tax free, the same as previously.

Construction groups make progress

By Our Kuala Lumpur Correspondent

TWO MALAYSIAN construction companies have reported sharp improvement in interim profits, reflecting the buoyancy of the residential housing market. Net profits at Bandar Raya Developments for the six months to June rose to 2.3m ringgit (US\$1.1m), from 903,000 ringgit in the same period last year.

Most of the profits came from the sale of houses it is building in Kuala Lumpur.

The interim pre-tax profits of Selangor Properties rose by 20 per cent to 3.5m ringgit (US\$1.6m), with a substantial part of the profits coming from earnings on the development of the 54-acre Damansara town centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Each company said that it expected the property boom to continue, and that it was optimistic of better results for their second half.

More share parcels bought as Ansett battle continues

BY JAMES FORTH IN SYDNEY

A NUMBER of large special share parcels were bought yesterday in Ansett Transport Industries by groups battling over control of the airline, hotel and television group, though sharemarket activity quietened. Close to 45 per cent of Ansett's capital is now held by four groups, indicating that the situation should be resolved soon.

A total of 3.13m shares were traded in Melbourne and 333,000 in Sydney. The Melbourne transactions included a special parcel of 2.17m shares, or 2.3 per cent of the capital, which went to interests supporting the Ansett Board and its founder, Sir Reginald Ansett. The parcel was booked at AS1.70 and cost A\$3.67m (US\$41m), lifting the stake of

the "friends" to about 85 per cent.

Another special parcel of 661,000 shares went to Ampol Petroleum, which also bought on the market floor during the day. Ampol has been buying off-market as well and is thought to hold close to 10 per cent of Ansett. The Western Australian contestant, Bell Group, controlled by Mr. Robert Holmes A'Court, announced at the start of trading that the company had obtained a further 1.8m shares through an on and off market trading, lifting its holdings to 3.6m shares, or 12.5 per cent.

Bell Group, which has indicated a desire to obtain a 20 per cent holding, increased its stake slightly with further market purchases during the day.

The fourth major shareholder, Thomas Nationwide Transport, has to date stayed out of the market bidding, although it reportedly wants to increase its interest from about 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

When trading started the protagonists stayed out of the market, with the result that the price dropped from the overnight level of AS1.86 to AS1.50. The bulk of the market sales were booked around this level, but the price was bid up near the close to AS1.80. It is widely believed that Ampol and TNT are interested in co-operating to exercise control of Ansett, a tactic they adopted for several years with cool group R. W. Miller following an inconclusive three-way takeover battle for Miller with Howard Smith.

Earnings growth for Reunert and Lenz

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

REUNERT AND LENZ, the South African electrical and mechanical engineering group, raised its profit after tax in the year to June 30. This was despite lower revenue from contracting operations in South Africa and a lower contribution from its Zambian subsidiary.

While group turnover fell to R86.0m (\$101m), from R81.5m in 1978, taxed earnings advanced to R3.5m (\$4.1m), from R3.8m. The advance was achieved on the back of a better performance by the South African electrical

and mechanical equipment merchandising operations. Trading margins of this division have apparently improved considerably on the previous year's levels and a further improvement in operating results is projected by Mr. Mike Reunert, the chairman.

On the basis of higher profit projections for the current year, dividends totalling 31 cents have been declared, compared with 28.5 cents for 1978, or earnings a share of 96 cents, against 93 cents.

Advances by Kadoorie companies

By Philip Bowring in Hong Kong

RUBBER TRUST and Amalgamated Rubber, two of the three Kadoorie Group rubber plantation companies currently the subject of an offer from Highlands and Lowlands of Malaysia, have reported profit and dividend increases for the first half to March 31.

Rubber Trust's net profit for the six months was HK\$4.76m (U.S.\$925,000), up from HK\$4.36m, and interim dividend was raised to 14 cents from 13 cents.

Amalgamated's profit rose more sharply—to HK\$5.49m (U.S.\$1.1m) from HK\$4.13m and its interim dividend was lifted by 2 cents to 10 cents.

Hortors sells holding in stationery concern

BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT

HORTORS (PTY.) has sold its 33 per cent stake in Hortors Walton (HWL), South Africa's largest commercial stationery company, to a number of institutions and individuals for about R2m (\$2.3m). HWL is to change its name to Waltons Stationery Ltd.

Last year the old Cape-based Waltons Stationery Company linked up with Hortors to form HWL. But revelations that HWL's holding company had close links with the former South African Department of Information had affected HWL shares on the Johannesburg stock exchange. HWL itself had no link with the Department of Information as it held no publishing interests.

Increase at Keck Seng

By Our Kuala Lumpur Correspondent

KECK SENG BERHAD, the plantation company, has reported a sharp increase in profits, as a result of higher output and favourable prices. Pre-tax profits for the first half of this year rose to 4.5m ringgit (US\$2.1m), from 1.4m ringgit for the same period last year.

The second-half is expected by the directors to be as good as the first-half, and an interim dividend of 10 per cent (7.5 per cent previously), is recommended.

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Telephone: 5-265657 Telex: 25192 TYTHK

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Gilts run out of steam and close below day's best Equities meet end-Account selling but Golds up again

Account Dealing Dates

*First Declared Last Account Dealings Dates... July 30 Aug 9 Aug 10 Aug 11 Aug 12 Aug 13 Aug 14 Aug 15 Aug 16 Aug 17 Aug 18 Aug 19 Aug 20 Aug 21 Aug 22 Aug 23 Aug 24 Aug 25 Aug 26 Aug 27 Aug 28 Aug 29 Aug 30

Following a quietly steady opening, equity leaders drifted lower in a reduced trade, although total bargains still amounted to 16,222 compared with Wednesday's 13,563. Down a mere 0.3 to 10 am, the FT 30 share index eased progressively, to close at the day's lowest of 487.4, thus losing 6.3 of Wednesday's rise of 7.1, on the week so far, however, the index retains a net gain of nearly 10 points.

With the help of a further sharp gain in the bullion price, South African Golds made the most buoyant showing of the three main sectors. The Gold Mines index meaning the improvement here with a rise of 8.4 to 166.3. This makes a gain of 19.6 so far this week to a level which is, however, well off the 200.4 peak for the year recorded a couple of months ago.

After the previous day's strong buying which resulted in the exhaustion of this long top and to faint hopes that lower interest rates may be in the offing, Gilts edged higher with buyers becoming a little wary ahead of next week's money supply figures. Gains to 3 were reduced to 2 at the close and the Government Securities Index improved 0.41 to 73.96 for a seven-day rise of 1.73—nearly 2 1/2 per cent.

level. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.9122 (0.9225). Wednesday's flurry in traded options proved to be short-lived, and only 244 contracts were completed against the previous day's 543. Shell attracted the majority of yesterday's business, recording 100 trades.

Discounts better. Discount Houses moved higher, taking their cue from this gilt-edged market. Allen Harvey and Ross advanced 10 to 375p, while Alexander, 205p, and Union, 375p, improved 5 apiece. Gerard and National put on 4 to 254p and Cater Ryder hardened 3 to 358p. The major clearing banks tended quietly firm with Barclays up 8 at 445p and Midland 6 to the good at 374p.

A heavy well-balanced institutional business developed in the investment currency market where the premium touched a high of 3.81 per cent in the early trade following early weakness in sterling before reacting late to close at 2.73 per cent, a fraction higher than the overnight

Harris Queensway up. Harris Queensway became a prominent firm feature in Stores, closing 12 higher at 265p following investment buying. Tins Products were similarly supported and finished 5 to the good.

Quicker and occasionally easier conditions prevailed among leading Building descriptions, but interest was still being shown in selected secondary issues where hopes of cheaper money stimulated demand for Barratt Developments which touched 125p before settling at 123p for a gain of 2 on balance.

Unilever lower. Scattered selling and an absence of buying partially eroded recent gains in leading Foods where Tate and Lyle slipped 2 to 139p, Cadbury Schweppes eased a penny to 52p and J. Sainsbury relinquished 5 to 323p. Still unsettled by the company's proposed capital reduction, Barker and Dobson were subjected to another bout of selling and touched 17 1/2 before settling at 14 1/2, a penny

down on balance. On the other hand, further speculative support prompted gains of 4 and 5 respectively in Bernard Matthews, 277p, and William Morrison, 177p.

Profit-taking clipped 7 from Trusthouse Forte to 145p and left Grand Metropolitan 4 cheaper at 149p. The withdrawal of recent investment support made for easier conditions in the Miscellaneous industrial leaders yesterday. Unilever led the retreat with a fall of 12 to 508p, while Glaxo declined 5 to 433p and Turner and Newall dipped 3 to 127p.

Motor sectors closed mixed. Automotive Products interim statement betwixt general expectations, although the share rose 1 1/2 to 88 1/2 despite some accompanying cautious remarks about profit margins. Flight Refuelling finished a similar amount better at 196p as speculative demand revived, but James Woodhead, 100p, and BTR, 100p, were unchanged.

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FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES. Table with columns for various indices (Government Secs, Fixed Interest, Industrial, Gold Mines, etc.) and their values for different dates.

HIGHS AND LOWS. Table showing high and low values for various stock indices and sectors.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1979. Table listing new high and low prices for various stocks and sectors.

OPTIONS. Table providing details on various options, including strike prices and expiration dates.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS. Table listing various options with columns for option name, price, volume, and other details.

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Introducing the Executive Information Service. Advertisement for a service providing business information to American Express Cardmembers.

ACTIVE STOCKS. Table listing active stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES. Table listing various share indices and their values.

LOCAL AUTHORITY BONDS. Advertisement for local authority bonds, including details on interest rates and terms.

RECENT ISSUES. Table listing recent issues of stocks and bonds.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS. Table listing fixed interest stocks with columns for stock name, price, and yield.

LOCAL AUTHORITY BONDS. Advertisement for local authority bonds, including details on interest rates and terms.

RIGHTS OFFERS. Table listing rights offers for various stocks.

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES. Table listing fixed interest price indices and their values.



AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Table listing various unit trusts such as Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., and others, with columns for name, details, and prices.

Table listing various unit trusts such as Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., and others, with columns for name, details, and prices.

Table listing various unit trusts such as Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd., and others, with columns for name, details, and prices.

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

Table listing various offshore and overseas funds such as Alexander Fund, Keyser Ullmann Ltd., and others, with columns for name, details, and prices.

INSURANCE AND PROPERTY BONDS

Table listing various insurance and property bonds such as Crown Life Assurance, Lloyds Life Assurance, and others, with columns for name, details, and prices.

NOTES: Please do not include a premium... and see to please indicate otherwise indicated.

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FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Antofagasta Ry., Do. Soc. Prof., Chilean Mixed, etc.

AMERICANS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for AUSA, AMF 5% Conv. 77, Amstar 57, etc.

BANKS & HP—Continued

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Coope D'I. Mar. 50, Grindlays, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Allied Brew., Amal. Dist. Br., etc.

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Aberdeen Const., Allied Plant, etc.

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for ANZ SA, Anglo Irish, etc.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Cory (Horse), Croft Ind., etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Amber Day 10p, Aquaduct 5p, etc.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for A.S. Electronic, Arden Elec., etc.

ENGINEERING—Continued

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Address Group, Alcon Alloys, etc.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Adams & Sons, Adams & Sons, etc.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Hotel (P.), Hotel (P.), etc.

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.)

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for A.A.H., A.C.B. Resources, etc.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for 'Shorts' (Lives up to Five Years), Treasury 3pc 79-82, etc.

Five to Fifteen Years

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Treasury 12pc 1984-87, Treasury 10pc 1982-85, etc.

Over Fifteen Years

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Treasury 12pc 1994-97, Treasury 10pc 1987-90, etc.

Undated

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for World War, World War, etc.

INTERNATIONAL BANK

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Balf. 11pc 1985-88, Balf. 10pc 1983-86, etc.

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Aus. 5pc 81-82, Aus. 6pc 1981-83, etc.

LOANS

Table with columns: 1979 High, 1979 Low, Stock, Price, % of Div, Yld, Bid, Offer. Includes entries for Agric. M. 5pc 83-89, Agric. M. 5pc 81-83, etc.

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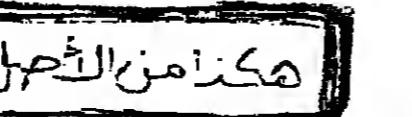
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Cabinet set to endorse Rhodesia proposals

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

THE CABINET is expected today to endorse detailed constitutional proposals for bringing Rhodesia to legal independence.

on Wednesday night, met at Downing Street yesterday to complete details of the plan which they will present to the Cabinet.

There is little hope of an early settlement of the Independent Television dispute. The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service said yesterday it saw no purpose in holding further talks with the two sides.

ITV shutdown fears as ACAS peace talks fail

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS, LABOUR STAFF

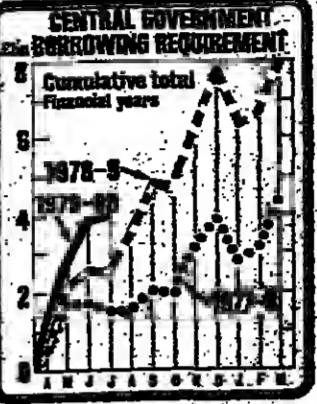
TELEVISION executives said they were afraid the absence of a proper national news service meant companies were contravening the Television Act laws governing ITV.

Managing directors from the 15 companies met yesterday after the talks at ACAS. In a statement issued last night they said ITV faced its most serious threat for many years.

THE LEX COLUMN Cost of a North Sea guarantee

The onerous special royalty due to the Government on Tricentrol's share of Thistle field production has for too long cast a shadow over the company's prospects.

Index fell 6.3 to 467.4



Both figures look for a second half slowdown. Yesterday's figures for central government borrowing in July still leave the cumulative GGBR since April running distinctly on the high side.

Automotive Products managed to catch up after seeing its operations badly disrupted in the first two months of the year.

French in bid to reduce effect of oil imports bill

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Government is preparing a series of measures aimed at offsetting the adverse effects the rise in imported oil prices is having on the country's economy.

with an annual income of less than Ffr 20,000 (about £3,000) and at least one child between the age of six and 16, will be raised substantially.

critics have pointed out that only 0.9 per cent of the cumulative price rise of 5.3 per cent during the first half of this year could be attributed to the increase in oil prices.

Technicians

Television executives said they were afraid the absence of a proper national news service meant companies were contravening the Television Act laws governing ITV.

Steel corporation intends to continue coke imports

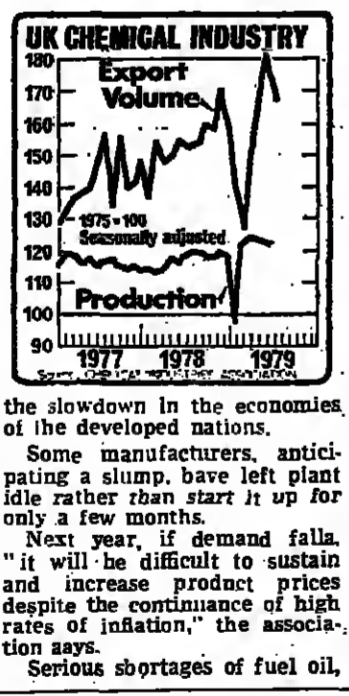
BY JOHN LLOYD

THE British Steel Corporation is likely to continue to import high quality coking coal for its new Redcar works on Teesside, for at least two years.

Chemicals industry downturn likely, association says

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

BRITAIN'S chemicals industry faces poor prospects in the coming year, according to the Chemical Industries Association.



despite a 10 to 15 per cent shortfall in deliveries by the main suppliers, have been avoided by running down stocks and buying at high prices on the European spot market.

Tricentrol buys out deal

BY JOHN LLOYD

THE British Steel Corporation has made strenuous efforts over the past three months to produce a suitable substitute for the imports, but it appears that British Steel is not convinced that it would be of sufficiently high quality.

Weather

UK TODAY

GENERALLY cloudy with rain at times. London, Eastern and Cent. N. England, Midlands, E. Scotland Bright at first, becoming cloudy with rain in places.

Germany

the Government's view that a cut in state indebtedness must take precedence over tax benefits.

Drilling

For Tricentrol much will depend on whether or not areas one and six are developed. Drilling has already begun on area one and it is possible that area two and a planned second well, will be used to exploit the reservoir.

Worldwide

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions across various global cities.

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